

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE AND FOREIGN POLICY.

AN untoward fracas has occurred in China. Tidings of it reached this country just about the time that a change of Ministry was in progress. The affair is one not unlikely to bring missionary enterprise into undeserved disrepute, and, on the other hand, unless settled with discretion, delicacy, and tact, may possibly drag us into hostilities with China. It will be necessary for us, first of all, to state the facts of the case, and we shall then add an observation or two applicable to them. For the former we are indebted to the *Times* correspondent, to an able summary in the *English Independent*, and to a letter addressed to the first-mentioned journal by the Rev. Dr. Landels, minister of Regent's-park Chapel.

It appears that the Rev. J. H. Taylor, who had been labouring for the spread of the Gospel in China for about eight years with marked success, returned to this country in 1860, or thereabouts, and for some five or six years occupied himself in studying medicine, in revising a previous translation of the greater part of the New Testament into the Ningpo dialect, and in addressing public meetings in several towns of the United Kingdom on the claims of China upon Christian effort. A little more than two years ago this devoted man went back to China accompanied by a staff of sixteen helpers, subsequently increased to twenty-nine. The mission has no guaranteed income, no powerful society at its back, but simply receives what is forwarded in support of it by a Christian gentleman, who acts as treasurer in its behalf. It has opened stations in various cities of the interior, not only without creating disturbance, but with many tokens of fair success. Hang-chow was its headquarters, but they were recently removed—we presume for greater convenience—to Yang-chow. Before the members of the mission had fairly settled down in their newly-obtained residence a preconcerted and organised popular assault was made upon it. The streets of Yang-chow were placarded with the absurdest but most irritating libels on the newcomers. They kidnapped children and boiled them alive; they devoured hearts obtained from dead bodies; they administered drugs and charms which turned Chinese into foreigners. The ignorant populace became excited. The

mission premises were surrounded, broken into, and set on fire, and, with some hazard, the inmates escaped by leaping from an upper window. The missionaries laid their case before the Consul-General of her Majesty at Shanghai—Mr. Medhurst—who appears to have deemed the shortest route to satisfaction the best, even if not the most legitimate. He immediately ordered out the British ship-of-war, the *Rinaldo*, went up with it to Yang-chow, presented himself, well guarded by marines and sailors, before the mayor of the city, and, finding this officer without adequate authority to deal with *literati*, the ringleaders of this row, proceeded to Nankin, to see the Viceroy, whither he would have carried the Mayor, who, however, beset with apprehensions, gave him the slip. Under the guns of the *Rinaldo*, the Viceroy made prompt concession, ordered the punishment of the organisers of the tumult, inflicted on them a fine of 2,000 taels by way of indemnity to the sufferers, and decreed that a proclamation declaring the right of foreigners to reside unmolested at Yang-chow should be engraven on stone, as a permanent memorial to its inhabitants. Just then, however, Captain Bush, of the *Rinaldo*, fell sick, and deemed it necessary to his personal comfort to return to his station in the ship he commanded, in preference to a river steamer. The Viceroy took prompt advantage of his retirement from the scene—upset previous negotiations, and obliged Mr. Medhurst to return without satisfaction.

Such are the main facts. Our readers will see at a glance that they do not present to view a simple question for decision. It may be said on behalf of the missionaries that they had done nothing to forfeit their claim to British protection conceded by the Treaty of Tien-Tsin. They had a right to settle at Yang-chow. They had adopted no course of action which gave the inhabitants a fair or even plausible cause of offence. Their reputation, indeed, seems to have preceded them, and there were people who said of them, "These fellows who turn the world upside down, have come hither also." It was not as missionaries, but as subjects of the British Empire, that they claimed and received the good offices of Mr. Consul Medhurst. It was not to uphold their right to teach the doctrines of the Cross, but to dwell unmolested at Yang-chow, that the *Rinaldo* showed its guns to the city of Nankin. Men do not forfeit their citizenship merely because they are reputed to entertain religious intentions unacceptable to the people among whom they may chance to dwell.

This is one side of the case, but undoubtedly it has another. Looked at from the ground of treaty rights, there may be some justification for Mr. Medhurst's intervention, though not perhaps for the mode of it. Regarded in the light of the Gospel of Christ, the affair assumes a very different appearance. The Rev. J. Hudson Taylor and his associates would not, in all probability, have excited the rage of the Yang-chow populace, had they not been known to contemplate missionary work, and it was to stop that work that a riot was organised against them. It is difficult to draw the line between the rights of a British subject to protection, and the duties and claims which, as a missionary, should be regarded as his by the protecting power—but a line there must be somewhere. As our contemporary, the *Daily News*, has very

sensibly observed, "Missionary work is by its very nature an attack, and, in the case of a semi-civilised people who perpetuate a form of religion by sacred books, an attack upon that part of their life which they guard most jealously. To say that such attacks ought not to be made, would be virtually to deny the propriety of missionary operations altogether, for the cases in which a community possessing a false religion manifest anxiety to be instructed in Christianity are so few that they may be left out of the question. Our right to insist that an Englishman residing in a foreign country, and obeying its laws, shall have the protection of those laws, is too clear to dispute; but every Government must judge for itself how far its interest in the maintenance of public peace will permit it to sanction proceedings which, by striking at the prejudices of the community, tend to provoke resistance. There is, moreover, something repugnant to an Englishman's faith in the power of Christianity to diffuse itself, in this use of the guns of her Majesty's ship *Rinaldo* to enforce the right to preach the Gospel."

Not less true, nor less forcibly put, are the remarks of the *Times*:—"It stands to reason that the Gospel of Peace ought not to be made an occasion of universal war; and when we revert to the early precedents bearing on the question, we find that the apostles and early missionaries certainly did not propagate their faith under the protection of armies and fleets. They did not bring war in their train, avenge themselves upon unbelieving hearers or ribald persecutors by invoking fire from heaven, and destroying their place and their nation. The argument of fire and sword was first imported into polemics by an Arabian fanatic in the seventh century, and in British eyes is now utterly abominable. We all dread the least approach to it, and are carefully searching our laws and customs in order to eradicate every trace of the evil. When, therefore, we read that imposing displays of force are made, heavy guns pointed against quiet inland cities, and severe 'ultimatums' addressed to municipal authorities, all on behalf of men whose mission is to preach and pray, we may be excused if we feel rather shocked, and if we venture to say there must be something wrong about it."

We need not attempt to add to the force of these remarks. We feel confident that the Government at home will not sanction another Chinese war, should such a calamity unhappily arise out of the circumstances narrated above. Unfortunately, the latest information from Peking has about it a very bellicose air. Sir Rutherford Alcock, her Majesty's Minister in that capital, has informed Prince Kung, the Regent of China, that he has placed the affair in the hands of Admiral Keppel, and it seems that the Admiral had already proceeded when the last mail left with the ships *Rodney*, *Rinaldo*, and *Slaney*, "to enforce from the Viceroy of Nankin that redress which our Minister had been unable to obtain at Peking." Meanwhile the passions of the Chinese people are being roused. British subjects are here and there exposed to the brutality of ferocious mobs, and the local mandarins are unwilling or unable to protect them. We trust the whole matter will be instantly and firmly dealt with by Government, for England is in no humour to be dragged into another missionary war.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

ONE of the most gratifying features connected with the Irish Church controversy is the continued multiplication of clerical testimonies in favour of the immediate disestablishment and disendowment of the Church. One after another, the clergymen of the Established Church, both in England and in Ireland, are siding with Mr. Gladstone. Two very remarkable testimonies have come under our observation this week. One is from a dignitary of the Irish Church, and one from a beneficed clergyman of the English Establishment. Archdeacon Cather, of Tuam, has written before upon this question, but not in such decisive language as that which he uses in the *Guardian* of last week. The substance of the Archdeacon's letter is as follows:—He first advocates the acceptance of Mr. Gladstone's terms as a matter of expediency in point of money, and then as a matter of expediency and experience as respects the Church's best interests. Thus he writes:—

Whatever in recent times has been added to the Church's strength has been the product of voluntary effort; while what has almost fatally hindered and retarded her has been the burden of her heavy Establishment "armour."

If, laying these aside, she went forth "with a sling and with a stone" "in the name of the Lord of Hosts," we may look to her gaining a more assured victory than she has ever yet won over the giant evils of the land.

But while Mr. Gladstone's proposals carry in them the germs of the Church's future growth and increase, they point, moreover, to the only course of policy by which the internal peace of the Irish nation can be restored and secured.

Surely, if we love our neighbour as ourselves, we ought to be willing to give a portion of the things which are not necessary, and may be even hurtful to us, for his sake.

And our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen have, by education and industry, advanced steadily to a position in which we should not, even if we could, ignore their right to perfect equality.

Occupying worthily, as they do, so many posts of honour and trust—as peers and privy councillors, as judges and justices of the peace, have they not borne their faculties meekly, and, with rare exceptions, urged their claims in a spirit of singular moderation and good taste?

It is my lot to live in the midst of them, and in a locality where they number twenty to one of us, and I have recently felt that their native courtesy and kindness have never displayed themselves more becomingly than in this their hour of anticipated triumph.

By observations like these, gathered in an experience of more than thirty years in the Church's ministry, I have been led to the conclusion that we, her ministers, for our own sake as well as for that of the whole nation, would do well to descend, of our own accord, from our privileged position, and to lay willingly on the altar of our country a portion of that wealth the abuse of which has been the just occasion of our Church's reproach, and the very use of which has been to her a source of weakness.

How dignified, nay, how grand a position would her bishops and her clergy occupy, were they seen approaching the throne with the prayer that her Majesty, with the co-operation of her Parliament, would restore peace to a distracted country, and a feeling of security to a threatened empire, by placing all her subjects in Ireland on a footing of complete civil and religious equality.

The gains accruing to her as a Church, in her increased freedom, and in the spur to new and vigorous exertion which her recovered voluntary action is sure to supply, would be in proportion to the social blessings in which every denomination of Christians in Ireland would reap their share.

This expression of opinion belongs to a higher order of Christianity than is often to be found connected with Church Establishments, and the greater reverence should be paid to it because it comes from a dignitary of the Irish Church.

We find, however, a similar expression of opinion from the Rev. Arthur H. Wyatt, of Burton-under-Needwood, in a letter to the *Staffordshire Advertiser*. Mr. Wyatt says he approached the Irish Church question with a lurking kindness towards the sister Church; with a feeling, by-the-by, which we, even now, altogether share with him. But he says that the Established Church appears to him to be indefensible. He puts his argument in the following words, which we quote at length for the brief summary which they contain of many often reasoned points:—

The Established Church in that country appears to me to sin against the first principles of true religion and civil justice.

If so, no arguments founded upon prescription or expediency ought to avail her anything. Because the Established Church in Ireland has been in existence for 300 years; because some choose to trace in her what I must be allowed to call, a fanciful consanguinity to the primitive Irish Church; because her dethronement may involve a principle which, at some future day, may possibly be successfully urged against the Established Church in England, avails her nothing. If the thing be wrong, let it cease to be, and let us leave the consequences unhesitatingly in the hands of the Great Supreme.

I have said that the existence and maintenance of the Established Church in Ireland sins against the first principles of true religion. I read that the Gospel is "the good tidings" which speak "peace on earth, goodwill to man." Has the Establishment in Ireland brought

peace to that unhappy land? Has she fostered goodwill among that unhappy people?

I read in the words of our Saviour Christ this precept, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets." Is this golden rule exemplified in the birth or fulfilled in the life of the Irish Church? To thrust a Church upon an unwilling people, to support it by the tithes of that people, to make it the badge of conquest, the ever present memorial of subjugation, is this to fulfil the law of Christ? I know not.

I read that one of the distinguishing characteristics of Christ's religion—one classed by our Lord with miracles and signs as a proof of its Divine origin—was this, that it should be preached freely to the poor. Matt. xv. 2-6. Has the Church in Ireland during these long 300 years preached the Gospel to the poor? Is she not essentially the Church of the wealthy and well-to-do classes of the people?

To say that she is willing to preach to the poor avails nothing, if you have placed her in a position so invidious that it is impossible for her to do so.

I have said that she also sins against the first principles of civil justice.

To found a Church by the strong hand of power, to maintain her by the strong hand of power, to give to her and to her only a representation in the Imperial Parliament, and to endow her and her only with the ecclesiastical revenues of the whole country, if this is civil justice, will any one be good enough to define what is civil injustice?

I say that the Established Church in Ireland sins against the first principles of true religion and civil justice: I believe I have shown that she does so.

But some may say,—Well, but what are we to do? Her property is inalienable: it is ecclesiastical property, and the civil power has no right to touch it. I reply,—Sir, if you tell me that the Imperial Parliament is incapable of disendowing a religious corporation, which owes its existence to the will of the Imperial Parliament, I tell you that you are asserting a principle which history proves to be untenable, and experience shows to be impracticable. If a corporation, whether civil or religious, becomes hurtful to the interests of the country, and the country declares through its representatives its desire for its disendowment, the Parliament can sweep it away. If the people through their representatives declare their conviction that the maintenance of the Establishment in Ireland is inimical to the welfare of the United Kingdom, I maintain that it is the duty of Parliament to sweep it away.

Some may say,—There is no hardship as regards the tithe in Ireland; the tithe is paid by the landlords, who are, for the most part, Protestants, and not by the tenants. But was this always so? I think I have read that the tithes were, at one time, gathered from the occupiers of the soil by the assistance of military, because they could not be otherwise collected; and that, to avoid incessant contentions, they were commuted into a tithe rent charge, payable by the landowners.

Are we to suppose that when this burthen was thrown upon the landlords they did not seek to indemnify themselves, in whole or in part, at the expense of their tenants? In many cases, probably, no; but in many cases, yes. I make no doubt but that, in one way or other, indirectly the Roman Catholic tenantry do, and always have, paid towards the maintenance of the Protestant Establishment. The Roman Catholic landowners pay directly, and the Presbyterian landowners pay directly, towards the maintenance of the Protestant Establishment. The hardship and injustice in the case of the Presbyterians is mitigated, because they are not compelled to maintain a religion which they deem to be heretical. But if I were a Roman Catholic gentleman in Ireland my whole being would rise in indignant rebellion against the injustice to which I should be subjected.

When Established clergymen like Archdeacon Cather and Mr. Wyatt treat the question in this fashion, it is almost time for Nonconformists to lay down their weapons. At least, we do not know that the Nonconformist armoury contains any superior weapons to that which our Church friends show themselves to be capable of using on our own side. "Our own side," did we say? Nay, rather, on the side of our common Christian profession.

We wish to call attention to a curious controversy that has been going on between Mr. J. G. Dodson, member for East Sussex, and some persons living, apparently, in the neighbourhood of Lewes. The whole controversy is printed in yesterday's *Herald*, and it is one of those curious illustrations of the manner in which men otherwise of fair intellect cannot by any possibility be made to understand figures. The point at issue at this. Mr. Dodson had remarked, in one of his speeches during the late election, that the Protestant denominations in Ireland which had increased were precisely those which had received no assistance whatever from the State. An exception is taken to this statement. Mr. Dodson, no doubt, derived his figures from the preface to the census of 1861, which gives the following statistics:—

Roman Catholics.		Presbyterians		Other Protestant Dissenters.	
1834	1861	1834	1861	1834	1861
6,436,060	4,505,265	643,068	533,291	21,822	76,661
Decrease.		Decrease.		Increase.	
1,930,795		119,767		54,839	
30.0		18.7		251.3	

The reply to this is, what we all know, that amongst "other Protestant Dissenters," Methodists are now included, who were excluded in 1834. We might remark upon this, that this is a clear gain to Dissent, for in 1834 the Methodists of Ireland chose to consider themselves as members of the Establishment, whereas in 1861 they chose not to consider them-

selves as such. But passing this over, we find the following figures:—

	1834	1861
Other Protestant Dissenters	21,822	76,661
The total of the latter is formed as follows:—		
Methodists		45,399
Independents		4,532
Baptists		4,237
Quakers		3,695
Other persuasions		14,695
Unascertained		4,103
		76,661

Mr. Dodson's commentary upon them is apt and conclusive.

Making the requisite deduction for the purpose of comparing the two years, 1834 and 1861, we find:—

Protestant Dissenters, 1834.	21,822	76,661
Deduct Wesleyan Methodists...		45,399

31,263

Here then is an increase of 9,440 since 1834. Mr. Goring, however, says that in order fairly to compare 1834 with 1861, we must further deduct 4,103 persons who have in the latter year been classed by the Census Commissioners as Protestant Dissenters, although their religion was unascertained. To this deduction I demur. If, for the purpose of comparing one year with the other, we are to exclude all doubtful elements, we ought to be in a position to do it alike for both years. Mr. Goring does not attempt this, and I question if the means are available for doing it. The enumeration for 1834 (so far at least as it is quoted by the commissioners for 1861) takes no notice of doubtful elements. But let that pass. Mr. Goring may have the benefit of these 4,103 persons, and there will still remain an increase of 5,337 in favour of 1861.

This constitutes an addition of twenty-five per cent. to the number of the "Other Protestant Dissenters" in Ireland during a period in which the Anglicans in the same country suffered a diminution of eighteen per cent., and the Presbyterians likewise one of eighteen per cent.

But Mr. Goring goes farther still, and says that for the purpose of comparison there must be yet another deduction of 10,073 persons from the total of Protestant Dissenters in 1861, for Unitarians and Presbyterians who dissent from the main bodies of the Presbyterians. These persons, he alleges, ranked in 1834 as "Presbyterians," but were in 1861 transferred to the account of "Other Protestant Dissenters." I find no warrant for this allegation in the report of the Census Commissioners.

They more than once point out in connection with the increase of Protestant Dissenters, that allowance must be made for the transfer of the Wesleyan Methodists from the side of the Church to that of Dissent; but they do not, so far as I can see, tell us of a transfer of these other bodies from one side of the account to another.

When the controversy had reached this point, the notorious Rev. A. T. Lee, whom Dr. Maziers Brady has so often extinguished, was called into the field, and what does anybody think that he wrote? Why, this—

The purely voluntary system in Ireland is a total failure.

The Baptists number only 4,237, and the Independents, 4,532, and most of them in town.

The annual income of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland much exceeds that of the Church. It amounts to over 750,000l. per annum, and is obtained from the Roman Catholics in a manner peculiar to the system to which they belong.

What? The purely voluntary system a total failure, and yet the annual income of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland much exceeds that of the Church? But keeping to statistics, we had some illustrations of Church statisticians during the Church-rate controversy, and really they seem to be out done by Irish Churchmen. What do you think they do? They deduct the number of Protestant Dissenters in Ireland in 1861 from the number in 1834, and say there is a decrease! In a similar way we might exhibit the Irish and the English Church both together. Mr. Dodson is quite right. The unendowed communities of Ireland have increased while the endowed has decreased.

The recent elections have returned to Parliament a majority of something like 115 for Mr. Gladstone. Let no one, however, consider this settles the question of the Irish Church. We see, on many sides, a determination to prolong the controversy to another general election, although the speakers in the Lords, last year, intimated that they would be bound by an appeal to the nation. It is quite possible that there may be another appeal, and there are certainly symptoms that some Conservatives, if they can, will provoke it. Thus a correspondent in the *John Bull* says:—

1. Every possible seat should be contested, if, as is not impossible, the question of the Irish Church should once more be brought before the constituencies. The Liberals do not shrink from contesting seats they have no chance of winning; and the balance in their favour of uncontested seats is paraded with some effect before the eyes of those wavering persons who like to record their votes on the side most likely to win.

2. The Conservative candidates should not appear before the constituencies at the last moment. Mr. O'Malley, in his speech after the election, accounts for his defeat by his only having been a candidate three weeks before the election. But if to appear before his constituents three weeks before the election be only to court defeat, why was he not brought forward three or six months earlier?

3. The Conservative press should give as much publicity to attempts at undue influence as their

opponents do. For weeks before the election it is made to appear that the Tories only are making use of bribery and the screw. The result of the election pe'itions is universally to prove the very reverse.

The various societies for the defence of the Church and the Constitution should amalgamate into one vigorous and effective Constitutional and Church Defence Association, which should have a branch in every constituency, and, if possible, in every parish. The absurd plan of defence adopted by the Church Institution, of allowing only such laymen as are nominated by the clergy to assist in the work of Church Defence, and that only in ruri-decanal synods, should be abandoned as soon as possible. It has been tried for ten years, and, as might have been predicted, it results in the present Liberal majority. It was with very different tactics that the Liberation Society fought and have almost won their battle.

"The Liberation Society fought and almost won the battle." Almost! Not as regards the late election, but we warn our friends that it is possible that another battle may be provoked, and then if they do their duty, there will be an end of all State-Churches and all Church Institutions.

It is with some feeling that we record the death, at more than eighty years of age, of the Rev. Thomas Adkins, of Southampton. Mr. Adkins was for many years the Mentor of English Congregational Dissent in the Southern counties. He belonged naturally, and by choice, to the school of the Claytons, but even that school did some service in its time. Forty—even fifty—years ago Mr. Adkins was heading bravely the movements of the young Dissent of his time. His name was connected with all the associations—the "Protestant" and others that are now dead but ought not to be forgotten. It was as much for him to identify himself with such movements as it is for us to identify ourselves with the movements of the present day. Mr. Adkins, however, has a limit of actual controversy, and the line separated him from the questions of the present day. He did, however, good work in his early days, and he commanded a singular respect in Hampshire. Whatever may have been said against him, this is to be said in his favour—he remained the chief pastor of one Congregational Church for nearly sixty years, and so he died. We should say that such a man must on the whole have been good as well as great.

THE SCOTCH KIRK AND STATE CONTROL.

II.

A third and more serious evil of the connection of the Scotch Presbyterian Church with the State is the spiritual defection which has to a greater or less extent almost always prevailed within her pale.

Dr. Chalmers frankly acknowledged that if it had not been for Dissent Scotland would have been in a state of worse than heathen darkness. The days of Moderatism, which extended over the last century, and which are well portrayed in the autobiography of that Pagan in gown and bands, Dr. Carlyle of Inveresk, were days of spiritual darkness for Scotland, times when, according to the late Dr. Hamilton of Strathblane, three-fourths of the ministers were so ignorant that they could not tell an anxious inquirer what to do to be saved. In his Synod sermon of 1829, which made some noise in the Voluntary controversy, Dr. Burns, of Paisley, now of Toronto, declared that in the Establishment of which he was a minister, there were even at that time "those who ate her bread while they did not do her work, who could preach Socinian, Pelagian, or Antinomian heresies, while they subscribed a Calvinistic creed; and whose zeal never kindled, save only when 'the rights of the Church,' as they termed them, were in danger." This is not the charge of an enemy of the Establishment, but of one who was at that time among its ablest and most influential defenders.

And this defection was no mere accident, but can be traced to the Church's alliance with the State. The late lamented Principal Cunningham, of the Free College, Edinburgh, testified, when in the Established Church, that Evangelical preaching was more common among Dissenters than in his own communion, and that this was due, in large measure, to "their having the right of popular election," and this opinion is borne out by obvious facts.

In consequence of patronage, livings are obtained not by the gifts of the preacher, but by private influence, and this has led in many cases to very reprehensible manœuvring on the part of candidates for the ministry. "The influence of patronage," said Mr. McCorkle, in 1835, then a minister of the Establishment, now of the Free Church, "I affirm to have been most malignant, affecting generally the expectants of churches with a carelessness about preparation for their profession—a crawling spirit of servility, in many cases, to those who had livings in their gift, or who could command interest in the Church—a strong aversion to the control of religious feeling in the laity—damping the energy of those who had no expectations, and infecting them with the listlessness of their neighbours. Not long ago, I remember, in

the University of Glasgow, this was the state of things. Patronage was lauded by almost all the youth with whom I was acquainted as a good thing, by some as the only good thing in the Church, and a tutorship in a family of influence coveted as the only sure road to preferment. What could be the result but a secularising of the office? Put me into the priest's office that I may eat a piece of bread."

But in addition to patronage, we have the benumbing influence of State support. Endowments diminish the mutual interest of pastor and people, and place the minister constantly under temptation to become remiss or indolent. "When the miller," says Dr. Andrew Marshall,* "enjoyed a monopoly by means of thirlage, he took no pains to keep his machinery in order, or to bring 'grist' to his mill, because the 'grist' was sure to come whether he took pains or not. When the minister enjoys a monopoly by means of an Establishment, he may indeed be active from other considerations, but his living being secured independently of his activity, is a mighty temptation to take his ease, a temptation which, in point of fact, is found to operate to a great extent in every Establishment, and which goes far to account for their inefficiency."

At this moment the Church of Scotland is showing increased vitality. The vigour of Dissent has aroused her. Dr. Chalmers long ago recognised this value of a vigorous "Dissenterism." In his "Use and Abuse of Endowments" he frankly says, "Without a free and active Dissent the light might wane to extinction and become darkness." The history of the Church in Scotland since his death has furnished even more striking proofs of his view than he could have dared to hope for. To Scotland the Disruption has been an incalculable blessing. Apart from the noble testimony it bore to the spiritual independence of the Church, it infused new light into every Christian denomination in the land. The ministers who left the Establishment received themselves a new baptism of zeal. Released from the trammels of the State, casting aside its crutches, and throwing themselves on the care of that Providence who sends none away on his own charges, they laboured with an earnestness which awoke the slumbering energies of the people; and hence issued a living stream of spiritual power which revived all sections of the Church. Prior to the Disruption Dissent struggled against a powerful Establishment, which cast its chilling shadow over the entire community, but now that Dissent claims the superiority it has vindicated for the principle of Christian willinghood its efficiency.

A fourth charge which we bring against State-Churchism, and substantiate from the history of the Scottish Establishment, is that of intolerance. When a minister is paid by the Government, has a parish assigned him by the Government, and is expressly recognised by the Government, he feels as if he had a prestige which his Dissenting brethren have not; and this feeling, though considerably modified now, assumed when Dissent was weaker an air of superiority which was insufferable, and betrayed itself in a movement of resolute hostility.

Previous to the rise of the Voluntary controversy in 1829, the distance between Churchmen and Dissenters had been gradually widening; and various incidents occurred to show the animus of the former, some of which may now be mentioned. At first, the students of the Relief Church attended the Divinity classes of our Universities, which as being national institutions should have been open to all; but the Church of Scotland stepped in, and enacted that no one should attend these classes unless he had been examined by one of her Presbyteries! This was the first open thrust at Dissent. Another speedily followed. When Bible and Missionary Societies were started, many of the ministers of the Church of Scotland co-operated with Dissenters and opened their pulpits to them to advocate the claims of these societies; but the General Assembly came forward and vetoed the practice by enacting that no Dissenter should be allowed to occupy the pulpit of any Established Church during the regular hours of worship! And then "at public meetings, the Established ministers coveted the first places in the synagogue; almost every religious and benevolent society of any importance must have an Established secretary, or be in some way or other under their control. Nearly all public sermons were preached by them. Sabbath-schools existing in their parishes, and begun perhaps by Dissenters, were looked upon as their own, and taken under their patronage. No person, unless wilfully blind, could have been ignorant of the elbowing work going on, and of the manner in which the humble Dissenter was forced to the wall."†

Other incidents followed equally significant. In

* "Establishments Further Considered," p. 221.

† *Christian Journal* for 1833, a magazine at that time the organ of the Relief Church. The article from which our quotation is made was written, we believe, by the late Dr. Struthers, of Glasgow.

the Apocrypha controversy, Dissenters, with few exceptions, were found on the one side, and Churchmen on the other, and so also with the question of Catholic emancipation. There are individuals among Churchmen, such as Chalmers, who took the Liberal side with Dissenters, but the great body of the Established clergy were on the side of intolerance.

These feelings culminated in the Voluntary controversy. The famous sermon of Dr. Andrew Marshall of Kirkintilloch, preached in Greyfriars Church, Glasgow, in 1829, fully unmasked the hostility of the Establishment; and a controversy ensued which led the Church of Scotland to inaugurate, with the view of crushing Dissent, her notorious Church-extension movement. Hitherto she had not shown any great zeal in providing for the spiritual wants of the increasing population of the country. Nay, when a proposal was made in 1818 to erect the English chapel in the Cowgate, Edinburgh, into a chapel-of-ease in connection with the Establishment, it was rejected in the Assembly by ninety-eight to thirty-two. But in 1834, a very different spirit showed itself; the church-extension scheme was launched to gather again the entire population within the fold of the Establishment.

In that year, a committee, with Dr. Chalmers as convener, was appointed by the Assembly to carry forward this scheme. Dr. Chalmers entered upon the work *con amore*, and threw into it all his talents, energy, and enthusiasm. The Church generally was to provide, by voluntary contributions, for the raising of the new extension chapels; and the legislature was then to be appealed to for endowments. Ostensibly the object of the movement was to provide for alleged spiritual destitution; but really, it was to extinguish Dissent. A church was to be provided, if possible, for every 1,200 of the population irrespective of Dissenting churches. To every church a district was to be allotted as the sphere of the pastor's labours, whose duties Dr. Chalmers thus defines:—"Your business is not to fill the church anyhow, nor to take the hearers from other districts; you are to fill it out of your own district. That district we call your parish, your congregation. You are vested with the charge of all the individuals in your bounds, and you are to see that they attend your church," which was equivalent to saying that the minister must see that no one attended the Dissenting churches.

Every effort was made to impress upon the community that this movement was in the interests of the poor, for whom it was to provide cheap church accommodation; as if existing Dissent had ignored the poor, instead of studiously supplying their spiritual wants. The obvious aim of this was to draft away as many as possible from the Dissenting churches. As a consequence of this movement, numerous churches were built in localities where the church accommodation furnished by Dissent was more than sufficient, and where preaching-stations had been opened by Dissenters to supply the lack of service which the parish ministers ought to have furnished.

In one important point, through the vigorous opposition of the Dissenters, the movement failed: the Government declined to entertain the Church's application for endowments; and the extension chapels had to be supported on the very principle—the Voluntary principle, to provide against whose impotency they had been built! It may be added as an interesting and suggestive fact, that the very men who led this Church-extension movement became, in 1843, Dissenters, and that the chapels which they had built passed from their hands!

We might also refer, in proof of the narrow and intolerant spirit which State-Churchism furnishes, to the fact that, with few exceptions, the ministers of the Scottish Establishment have been the opponents of almost every liberal sentiment and movement. Noble men among them there have been and there are still, who have risen superior to prejudice and self-interest; but as a body they have been a dead weight on progress in civil and religious liberty. They were the opponents of the Catholic Emancipation Act, of the repeal of the Corn Laws, of the measures which abolished tests for the secular chairs in our universities; and now they oppose the disendowment and disestablishment of the Irish Church. It is an assertion of Ballantyne in his comparison of Established with Dissenting churches, which the history of the Scottish Church before his time abundantly proved, and which her history since has confirmed, that "there hardly ever was an enlightened or liberal sentiment that proceeded from them."

We might adduce other facts from her history illustrative of the evils of State-Churchism, but we forbear. Those brought forward are sufficient to show that her connection with the State is fraught with the most serious injury to the interests of religion. Most earnestly do we pray that the movement now initiated against the Irish Church may

soon extend to the Establishments of Scotland and England. In Scotland, the Established Church embraces only a minority of the people, and even on that ground should cease to receive endowment from the State.

The fears which many entertain, that the land would not be adequately provided with Christian instruction were endowments withdrawn, are entirely groundless. The Voluntary principle, for which we contend as the Scriptural rule for the support and extension of the Gospel, has been charged with impotency; but the history of its working in Scotland attests its power. Thirty years ago Dr. Chalmers said, speaking of Dissenters, "They have not raised a single meeting-house in the whole county of Sutherland, not for the want, most assuredly, of surplus room or surplus population; but from the inherent impotency of a system to which, nevertheless, after with rash and ruthless hand they had destroyed the Establishment, they would abandon the whole Christianity of the land." And yet, what has the Free Church, of which Dr. Chalmers was so great an ornament, done by voluntary effort? She has not only covered Sutherlandshire, but the whole country, from Caithness to the north of Galloway, from Peterhead to the farthest Hebrides, with churches, mansees, and ministers, besides contributing liberally for foreign missions. And, not to mention other denominations, such as the United Presbyterian Church, the oldest and one of the most influential Dissenting bodies in Scotland, what has the Established Church herself done by voluntary effort? She built her *quoad sacra* chapels by voluntary effort; she endowed them by voluntary effort; and now she is endeavouring to augment her smaller livings by voluntary effort. Marvellous things have been done by voluntary effort in the thirty years since the Church-extension controversy, and men who then denounced the principle, and delivered lectures and published books on its inefficiency, have since recanted, and owned its power. Who now in the face of facts like these will raise the old cry of impotency? Or who can reasonably have any fear of spiritual destitution were all State support of religion withdrawn?

Were the Scottish Church disendowed, the gain to that Church, and to the other Churches as well, would be great. New life would pervade the entire body; new zeal would animate her members; and increased activity would characterise her efforts. The divisions which now weaken the Presbyterian Church would be healed; jealousies and strifes inseparable from these would cease; the waste of energy which they almost invariably cause would be saved; and a greater amount of spiritual power would thus be brought to bear on the infidelity, indifference, open ungodliness, and immorality which are still so lamentably prevalent. We write in no sectarian or party spirit. It is because we wish well to the Church of Scotland that we desire her freedom. We long for the day of her deliverance. May it come speedily!

Glasgow. A. O.

NONCONFORMISTS IN PARLIAMENT.

The *English Independent* gives the following as a list of Nonconformists returned to the new Parliament:—

INDEPENDENTS.—Mr. Hadfield, Sir F. Crossley, Mr. W. E. Baxter, Mr. Edward Baines, Mr. S. Morley, Mr. C. Reed, Mr. Henry Richard, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Rylands, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Pochin, Mr. Lea, Mr. S. Plimsoll, and Mr. Armitstead.

BAPTISTS.—Mr. Winterbotham, Mr. Alfred Illingworth, Mr. Candlish, Mr. Gourlay, Mr. Evan Richards, and Mr. Harris.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.—Mr. John Bright, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Charles Gilpin, Mr. Fowler (Cambridge), Mr. Backhouse, Mr. Pim, Mr. Pease, Mr. Whitwell, Mr. Fowler (Penryn), Mr. Fletcher.

WESLEYANS.—Mr. Howard, Mr. McArthur.

CALVINISTIC METHODIST.—Mr. Davies (Anglesea).

UNITARIANS.—The Lord Mayor (Alderman Lawrence), Sir Sydney Waterlow, Mr. J. Stansfeld, Mr. R. N. Phillips, Alderman Carter, Mr. J. B. Smith, Mr. George Melly, Mr. J. Fielden, Mr. W. P. Price, Mr. W. Rathbone, Mr. T. B. Potter, Mr. E. Potter, Mr. Samuelson (Banbury), Mr. P. A. Taylor, Captain Price, Mr. Bonham Carter, Mr. Brookhurst, Mr. Samuelson (Cheltenham), and Mr. Cowen (Newcastle-upon-Tyne).

PRESBYTERIANS.—Mr. McLaren, Mr. Macfie, Mr. Crum-Ewing, Alderman Lusk, Mr. Miller, Mr. Graham, Mr. McClure, Mr. Kirk, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Dingwall Fordyce, and the Lord Advocate.

JEWS.—Mr. Meyer de Rothschild, Mr. Nathaniel de Rothschild, Alderman Salomons, Mr. Jessel, Q.C., Sir Francis Goldsmid, and Mr. Serjeant Simon.

ROMAN CATHOLICS.—Sir John Simeon, and twenty-five of the members elected by Irish constituencies.

It thus appears that there are 14 Independents, 6 Baptists, 10 members of the Society of Friends, 2 Wesleyans, 1 Calvinistic Methodist, 19 Unitarians, 11 Nonconforming Presbyterians, 6 Jews, and 26 Roman Catholics in the new House—in all 96 members not owing allegiance to the Establishment.

The Bishop of Salisbury is suffering from a severe attack of prostration of the nervous system.

The New Bishop of London, Dr. Jackson, is expected to enter upon his duties shortly after Christmas.

The statement that the young Duke of Norfolk has given 50,000*l.* towards the erection of a new Roman Catholic chapel at Arundel is denied on authority.

CHURCH-RATES.—At a meeting of Archdeacons at the Charterhouse, on Wednesday, a scheme drawn up by Archdeacon Denison as to the collection of Church-rates was adopted.

MEETING OF CONVOCATION.—The bishops and clergy of the province of Canterbury assembled in St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday morning. The Latin sermon, usual on the occasion, was preached by Dr. Jeremie, Dean of Lincoln. Archdeacon Bickersteth having been unanimously re-elected Prolocutor of the Lower House, the session was prorogued to the 2nd of February next.

Mr. Disraeli has nominated the Rev. Reginald Henry Barnes to the vicarage of Hughenden, Bucks. Mr. Barnes, who is M.A. of Christ Church, Oxford, took deacon's orders in 1854, and priest's orders in 1855. He has been a prebendary of Exeter since 1855, and vicar of St. Mary's Church, Torquay, since 1860.

INCREASE OF THE EPISCOPATE.—There is a rumour afloat that Mr. Gladstone will not be disinclined to recommend an increase of the Episcopate of the Church of England, provided it can be effected without any demand upon the national funds. A proposal would in that case be made to divide, in the first instance, [the diocese of Exeter, the bishop of which has consented to surrender all his patronage in Cornwall, in the event of that county being erected into a separate ecclesiastical see. It is said funds would readily be forthcoming for this see, as well as for a new bishopric of St. Albans.—*The Echo.*

THE REV. MR. LIDDELL AND BELGRAVE CHAPEL.—The Judge of the Consistorial Court gave judgment on Monday morning on this suit, which was instituted by Mr. Liddell to recover from the minister of Belgrave Chapel the offertory alms received there from the congregation. The judgment was that Mr. Liddell, being merely minister of a district chapel, St. Paul's, and his churchwardens being appointed with limited powers, not extending to parochial objects, was not entitled to claim these offertory alms, whatever might be the right of the incumbent of the parish church. Judgment was therefore given for the defendant.

THE END OF A THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.—St. Aidan's Theological College, Birkenhead, which has been established many years, and which has provided training for a large number of clergymen of the Church of England, especially in the northern and midland dioceses, is to be closed, and after Christmas no more students will be received. It appears that at the present year a committee was appointed who inquired into a variety of charges, some made by the students against Dr. Baylee, the principal, and others by Dr. Baylee against the students. Financial troubles had also fallen upon the college, and the whole working appeared to be unsatisfactory. It is said not to be improbable that the college may be reconstructed at some future time under the direction of the Bishop of Chester and Dean Howson.

A CHURCHYARD QUESTION AT BIRMINGHAM.—A case of some difficulty with respect to churchyard repairs has arisen at Birmingham, but it is likely to be adjusted in a friendly spirit. The churchwardens of St. George's applied to the overseers of the poor to pay out of the rate levied for the poor the amount required for putting in order and cleansing the churchyard. A long correspondence ensued between the rector and several parishioners, and numerous offers of subscriptions were made if the claim were withdrawn. It was believed that the claim was perfectly legal, but the board of guardians refused to entertain it. A meeting has been held, and the question fully discussed. The following resolution was arrived at:—"That the vestry recommends that, under the circumstances, the letter of the warden to the overseers of October last be withdrawn, as a matter of courtesy, on the understanding that it is likely that proposals will shortly be made on the principle of friendly conference on both sides, for some modification of the arrangements made by the existing law upon the subject."

PROSECUTION OF PROFESSOR EWALD BY THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.—In the autumn of last year Professor Ewald, the celebrated Oriental scholar and Biblical critic, was deprived of his office in the Göttingen University, on the ground of his being unable to take the oath of his allegiance to the Prussian Government, while, at the same time, liberty was granted him to continue his lectures. A few weeks ago he received a Government order to discontinue his lectures, on the ground of a pamphlet which he had published in praise of the Hanoverian king and people, and sharply criticising the Prussian Government. This pamphlet, entitled, "Lob des Königs und des Volkes," is already in the second edition. It has been widely read, and it is well known that a large number of people of all classes and in all positions have great sympathy with the feeling so eloquently expressed in it. Accordingly, a charge of treason against the famous professor. He will be tried on this charge within a few days, and it is not impossible that the end may be his imprisonment.

MR. GATHORNE HARDY AND THE CHURCH DEFENDERS.—On Wednesday morning, at eleven o'clock, a deputation waited upon Mr. Gathorne Hardy, at the Home Office, for the purpose of presenting him with an address from the Church and State Defence Society, which was established some months ago. Amongst those present were Archdeacon Churton,

Archdeacon Denison, Professor Burrows, the Rev. Dr. F. G. Lee, &c. In the absence of the Dean of York the memorial was presented by the Archdeacon of Taunton, who said that 333,927 signatures had been appended to it. There had come in that morning between 1,200 and 1,300 additional names. Mr. Hardy said he was sorry to trouble the gentlemen to come at so early an hour, but he had been summoned elsewhere, to Windsor, and perhaps this was the last official act he should have to perform. He would take care that the address was duly laid before the Queen, and he would call her Majesty's attention to the very large number of signatures which had been appended to it. The deputation then retired, the interview having lasted just three minutes.

ARCHBISHOP TAIT ON THE IRISH CHURCH.—An address has been presented to the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury by the clergy of the diocese of London against the disendowment and disestablishment of the Irish Church. The Archbishop-designate, in reply said, with regard to Mr. Gladstone's measures—

Till we know distinctly and in detail what these measures are, it would obviously be wrong for those who are privileged to have a seat in the Legislature to pledge themselves as to the particular course which they may ultimately deem it their duty to take, as most consistent with the interests of religion and the welfare of the Church and nation, in dealing with any bill or bills which may be brought into Parliament touching this important matter. For myself, I cannot but hope that amidst the conflict of political parties, some wise and temperate and constitutional reform may be devised, which shall satisfy all just demands and yet avert the danger of revolutionary change, which you so justly look upon with alarm. But of this you may rest assured, that whatever part I may be called upon to take in the difficulties which seem to be before us, the principles which I deliberately enunciated last session in my place in Parliament, and at the well-known meeting at St. James's Hall, will be my guide in dealing with these momentous questions.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON AND FATHER IGNATIUS.—The following letter has been addressed by the Bishop of London to the Rector of St. Edmund the King and Martyr and St. Nicholas Acons in the city:—"Fulham Palace, S.W., December 7. My dear Mr. Hill, —A lady with whom you are acquainted has placed in my hands a letter which Mr. Lyne acknowledges to be his, in which that gentleman states that he proposes to excommunicate her daughter and publish the sentence in the newspapers. He states that the daughter had 'broken a solemn life vow of obedience' to him, 'received and taken in the name of the Most Holy Trinity.' I consider this letter to show that I cannot with any propriety allow Mr. Lyne any longer to officiate in your church as he has hitherto done for some time past with my knowledge and allowance, though without any licence. I know how much you have felt that the zeal of Mr. Lyne and his earnest appeals on the great Christian verities have affected many of your people for good, and I wish you could retain what is good in him without being compromised by his peculiarities. But I have no doubt now that this cannot be. Believe me to be yours very faithfully, A. C. LONDON.—Rev. P. G. Hill."

THE CALVINISTIC METHODISTS OF WALES AND THE LATE ELECTIONS.—At a monthly meeting of the Calvinistic Methodists of Arvon, held at Caerthraw, Dec. 7 and 8, where ministers and deacons of some seventy churches were present, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

That we have witnessed with much astonishment and regret certain charges which have been brought against us as a religious people in connection with the late elections, namely, that our ministers for several Sabbaths previous to the elections were preaching politics, and that an unjust and coercive influence has been used in our church meetings in order to compel our people to vote contrary to their convictions. These charges have not only been reiterated in the columns of the *North Wales Chronicle*, and other Conservative papers, but they have been brought forward several times in the speeches of the honourable candidates themselves. We cannot but express our regret that such a gulf should subsist between the aristocracy of our land and the religion of their Nonconformist neighbours, and that gentlemen of high position should allow themselves to be so far misled as to make use of such contemptuous expressions in speaking of men who, to say the least, have a claim to their respect. However, we protest in the strongest and most emphatic manner against these imputations. Not a single political sermon was delivered in any one of our pulpits; not a single church-meeting was devoted to persuade our members to vote with either of the candidates; and it was never intimated by any means that any member would lose anything in a religious sense in consequence of his voting. While we acknowledge the right of our ministers, our deacons, and our people to take part in political matters, if they choose, as members of the civil government, we do not allow any of our religious meetings to be devoted to that purpose; and all the reference to the elections made in our religious meetings was by way of exhorting our people to act conscientiously, and in particular to conduct themselves in a proper manner on the days of the elections. There are several of our office-bearers and members who have voted with the Conservative candidates, and several others who have remained neutral; but they are all ready to testify that no church influence was employed in order to induce them to do otherwise. We are sorry that a small number of our chapels have been used to hold public meetings in connection with the elections; but that was contrary to an express resolution of the monthly meeting, and the plea adduced in defence of such proceeding is, that there were no other places in those neighbourhoods in which such meetings could be held. But nothing was done, either by those meetings or by any other means, that could in any way justify the utterly unfounded charges which have been brought against us.

THE CLERGY AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.—The "Church in Danger" is a cry which many of the clergy of South Leicestershire raised during the late election, with some success. "By means of this appeal to the fears, the prejudices, and the ignorance of the weak and ill-informed, mixed up with a deal of sanctimonious pretence, have Tory journals, intended for circulation in the strictly rural districts (says the *Leicester Chronicle*) succeeded in temporarily terrifying a section of the electoral body, whom they claim an exclusive right to supply with intelligence, on the strength of their orthodoxy in politics and religion. Ever allied in hostility to the people, the Tory clergy are rapidly rendering the Church that of a smaller and yet smaller minority of the nation, and they are writing on the walls, with no invisible hand but with visible fingers, 'You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.'" The parsons of Leicestershire are thus reproved and condemned by "A Clergyman" in the columns of the local paper referred to. He says:—

The fact is, the majority of the clergy have forsaken the old landmarks of their historical Liberalism, and now take their stand with those whose traditions have been eminently obstructive. The clergy of the National Church ought to be in harmony with the spirit of the age; if they become exclusive, and continue rigidly obstructive, they are on the high-road to denationalise the Church. As soon as the clergy by their political and religious action denationalise the Church, as soon will the nation "take account of its servants." Notably, the rural clergy have allied themselves with that party in the State whose instincts the "United Kingdom" has lately repudiated. Will they be true to their modern retrogressiveness? Will they adhere to those in whom the spirit of feudalism still exists? Will they still exercise those petty arts and influences, which have been used by them in the recent elections, and make "every altar a tribune"? Will they lower themselves to become the teachers of a "miserable sect," and hold on to the effete policy of those who would set class on class in hideous strife? Will they still howl "the Church in danger"? Will they still drag the ark of God into the battle, and allow the blows of passionate strife to fall thick and fast upon it? Or, while they have time, will they come to the front themselves—be true to the Church's old Liberalism—act in alliance with the progressive spirit of the age—temper with wisdom—mould with foresight, legislative speech and action—and strive to lead the national life through impending troubles: allay, not excite, religious passion? Which policy will they elect to follow—a policy of rigid obstruction to wise and rational measures, or one which leads to the healing of national strife? A rigid holding on by an anti-national policy has before now led the country to the brink of revolution, and may do so again, no matter whether the policy be of an ecclesiastical or of a political nature. Will the bulk of the clergy pursue this anti-national policy, and with the gradual "secularisation of politics" before their eyes, instead of meeting the popular will, obstruct it; instead of allaying religious strife, excite it; instead of advancing progressive measures, backen them, instead of making the Church national and therefore comprehensive, hedge it round by still straiter stakes, and make it narrow and exclusive? Then will they hasten the time they most dread.

THE CHURCH IN THE AUCTION-ROOM.—On Tuesday last, while High Church and Low Church were fiercely struggling for the mastery in Freemasons' Hall, a yet more suggestive display might have been witnessed at the auction-rooms of Messrs. Debenham and Storr, in Covent-garden, where any person tolerably familiar with the sights of the French capital might, without any great stretch of the imagination, have fancied himself in the midst of that singular and unique collection of antiquarian shreds and patches, of historic odds and ends, the Cluny Museum. The walls of the well-known auction-room were covered with a multitude of ecclesiastical vestments and other personal paraphernalia, of every conceivable description, shape, material, and colour. Rich banners of silk or velvet, profusely emblazoned with gold or silver ornaments, were suspended from the ceiling, while the numerous shelves were crowded with rolls of costly cloth of gold, brooches, silk and satin damask, brocades, moire antiques, lace, fine linen, velvets, and other expensive fabrics. There was a vast array of chasubles, copes, stoles, tunicles, crosses, altar-cloths, mitres, chalice covers, dorsals, humeral veils, and other articles used in connection with the gorgeous rites and ceremonies to which the Ritualists are so partial. Seldom has such a dazzling blaze of gold and silver been witnessed within the walls of an auction-room. Certainly the clerical element was conspicuous principally by its absence, the Jews having the field pretty much to themselves, although it is difficult to guess what possible use they could make of their purchases, unless they resold the same for exportation, or for conversion into theatrical properties during the coming pantomime season. Judging from the prices realised, ecclesiastical vestments of the true Ritualistic fashion are not greatly in demand in this country. A chasuble, stole, and maniple, beautifully embroidered in white moire antique, and lined with crimson silk, was sold for 20s. Another purchaser obtained for 25s. a rich set of priest's vestments, of the form used in the eleventh century, made of gold brocaded satin damask, perfectly new and splendidly woven, with numerous figures of saints, trimmed with thick silk lace, and lined with crimson silk. A magnificent cope, the body formed of fine cloth of gold, richly brocaded and bordered with silk lace, lined with crimson silk, the hood being ornamented with the lamb in silver embroidery, and decorated with massive silken fringe, brought only two guineas. A richly-worked and bordered violet satin damask chasuble, stole, and maniple, lined with silk, realised 10s. The unmade-up materials were disposed of at correspondingly cheap rates, a piece of fine cloth of gold, perfectly new, bringing only 5s. 6d. per yard; other pieces selling as low as half-a-crown. Ten pieces of richly-

figured silk for stoles, together with three cloth of gold chalice covers, produced 13s. Among the remaining lots, of which there were a goodly number, were to be found a rich profusion of linen vestments, satin banners, specimens of silk bordering, crimson silk velvet capes, white silk chalice veils, palls, offertory bags, surplices, bands for dalmatics, velvet altar-cloths, crimson and white dorsals, rich crimson and gold silk damask vestments, elaborately carved oaken altar chair, carved oak pinnacles, velvet book covers, embroidered pockets, and the like, few of which realised more than the cost of the mere materials.—*Express.*

Religious and Denominational News.

ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH-BUILDING ASSOCIATION.

The fifteenth anniversary of this society was held at Halifax, on the 10th inst. The deliberations of the committee were private, but we understand that grants to the amount of about 1,800l. were made to churches, mostly in country places. The number of churches aided since the establishment of the society in 1853 had been between 300 and 400, and the amount granted between 70,000l. and 80,000l. In the erection of chapels the sum of nearly 500,000l. had been expended. In the evening, the annual public meeting was held at Square Congregational Church. There was a large attendance. The chair was occupied by Mr. Louis John Crossley, of Willow Hall, one of the treasurers of the association. The Rev. J. O. Gallaway, the secretary, read the annual report, which stated—

The institution was formed in 1853, expressly as an experiment for five years. In 1858 the experiment was renewed for a second five years, and not till 1863 was it determined to pronounce the institution permanent. It was, however, decided to hold a five-yearly conference, for the purpose of reviewing the course hitherto taken, gathering fresh help, and deliberating on the future. The conference for the present year was held at Derby, in July, and was attended by gentlemen from all parts of the country. It recommended that in the course of every five years one hundred new chapels should be erected under the guidance of the society. The number of chapels which the society had aided during the fifteen years, had been about 400, and the aggregate accommodation of these about 153,000 sittings. The cost of erections was 459,000l. towards which the society had advanced 75,000l. The committee had also a balance in hand of 2,136l., to meet claims becoming due; and also held promissory notes amounting to 9,500l.; total, 11,636l. The further income promised and the contributions during the ensuing five years were estimated at 14,000l., making a total applicable of 25,000l. Of this amount a considerable sum was pledged. To still further advance the objects of the society, it was proposed, under certain conditions, to make loans of money repayable within a limited period, without interest.

The Treasurer's statement was also laid before the meeting. It was balanced to the 3rd instant. It reported that—

The balance in the Union Bank of London at the last audit was 1,614l. 1s. 5d.; drafts in hand, 303l. 19s.; total, 1,918l. 13s. 5d. Contributions received during the year, 2,268l.; special advance from a friend in aid of Buckland Chapel, Portsmouth, 200l.; contributions in aid of loan fund, 1,422l.; repayments of advances from loan fund in aid of various chapels, 1,569l.; ditto, Irish fund, 10l.; grant from Irish Evangelical Society in aid of Albert-bridge Chapel, at Belfast, 25l.; receipts from the Yorkshire West Riding Auxiliary, 1,859l. 16s. 1d.; collections, 153l. 2s. 3d.;—total on the debit side, 8,989l. 4s. 9d. On the other side there had been made payments in aid of chapels during the year amounting to 4,710l. 13s.; by disbursements of West Riding Auxiliary Society, 1,859l. 16s. 1d.; salaries and other expenses, about 730l.; leaving cash in bank, 1,828l. 2s. 10d.; and drafts in hand, &c., 310l."

The Rev. B. DALE moved that the report be adopted, printed, and circulated. The Rev. E. MELLOR seconded the motion, which was carried. The Rev. T. AVELING then moved the following resolution:—

This meeting is gratified to learn that in accordance with the recommendation of the conference held in Derby last July, that the number of chapels adopted by this society be brought up to 500 by its fifteenth anniversary, is fully accomplished; that the known assets of the society are fully equal to its present conditional liabilities, and that a probable balance of 19,000l. is secured towards the 100 new chapels to be aided between now and the anniversary of 1873. This meeting further expresses its earnest hope that the liberality of our churches will increase this sum by the time specified to at least 25,000l.; and for this purpose attaches great importance to annual collections from congregations aided, and triennial collections from congregations not aided, by the funds of the society.

The Rev. WM. CUTHBERTSON seconded the motion, which was also adopted. On the motion of Mr. JOHN FINCH, thanks were voted to the retiring officers, and new ones appointed for the next year. Sir F. CROSSLEY, M.P., seconded the motion, and in doing so spoke of the spread of the spirit of religious equality in the country. Taking up a suggestion by Mr. Aveling to erect independent chapels at the seats of learning of Oxford and Cambridge, as the Universities were likely to become unsectarian, Sir Francis said he should very much like the experiment to be tried, and would be willing to take some part in the project. He recommended, however, that the money should be advanced on the condition that if the new chapels prospered, the full amount of the erections should be repaid to the funds of the society. He had mixed with all classes of society, and even in aristocratic society he did not remember having been looked down upon because of being a Dissenter. The aristocracy were not likely to be ashamed of a Dissenter if he were not ashamed of Dissent. The Rev. D. JONES, of Booth, then seconded the resolution,

which was carried. The Rev. J. O. GALLAWAY then moved this resolution, which was also adopted:—

That no money, whether grant or loan, in aid of any permanent chapel on a new site, be advanced until the property has been duly invested in trust, according to the principles and usages of the Congregational churches; that no money in aid of a chapel on an old site be advanced until satisfactory evidence has been furnished that the property is duly secured to the denomination; and that in every case where a trust deeds needs enrolment to give it legal validity, no money be advanced until such enrolment has been completed.

Thanks voted to the chairman concluded the meeting.

CONFERENCE AT DERBY ON THE ORISSA MISSION.

The committee and friends of the Orissa Mission met for special conference, at St. Mary's-gate Chapel, Derby, on Tuesday, December 8th. About 200 ministers, delegates, and subscribers assembled, the different districts of the General Baptist Connexion being well represented. The chairman of the association for the year, the Rev. Thomas Goadby, B.A., presided. After a preliminary devotional service, the deliberations of the conference were opened by two papers; the first by the Rev. J. C. Pike, one of the secretaries of the society, on "The State and Needs of the Mission"; the second by the Rev. H. Crossweller, B.A., of Derby, on "Our Organisation and Plans of Operation at Home." There was a third paper, at the opening of the afternoon session, by the Rev. W. Bailey, late missionary in Orissa, on "Native Agency." The hearty thanks of the conference were given to the writers of these papers, and it was requested that the committee publish them forthwith. The discussions which followed were chiefly upon topics suggested by the first and second papers, and were characterised by the greatest freedom and outspokenness, tempered by kindly feeling and the warmest love to the mission. It was shown in the course of the discussions, that every regard was paid to economy in all the workings of the society at home, that there was no wasting of funds whether by travel or otherwise. It was distinctly announced that the half of what one secretary of a sister society received was the whole of what was paid to both the secretaries of the Orissa Mission. It was shown by the most emphatic testimony that the salaries of the missionaries were so low that they were hindered and hampered in their work by the pressure of poverty, rather than remunerated so as to place within their reach comforts easily obtainable at home.

The practical suggestions and home-plans were very valuable, and the proposals of the writers of the able and exhaustive papers presented were on the whole very fully endorsed. The brethren who took part in the discussions were the Revs. Dr. Underwood, T. Yates, J. J. Goadby, J. Clifford, M.A., LL.B., T. W. Mathews, S. Cox, W. Hill, S. Allsop, E. H. Jackson, O. Clarke, B.A., W. Chapman, I. Stubbs, W. R. Stevenson, M.A., W. Evans, W. Orton, E. C. Pike, T. Barnes, and Messrs. C. Roberts, R. Johnson, T. W. Marshall, R. Argyle, W. B. Bembridge, and possibly some others. The following were the resolutions unanimously adopted, by which practical expression was given to the deliberations of the conference. Resolved—

1. That the best thanks of the conference be presented to the Revs. J. C. Pike, H. Crossweller, B.A., and W. Bailey, for their valuable papers, and that they be requested to place them at the disposal of the missionary committee for immediate publication.

2. That this conference recommend the mission committee to enact as a law through the association that all trust funds on which annuities depend, be henceforward preserved intact until such annuities shall have ceased.

3. That ministers be requested to place an offer of their services for two Sundays in the year, with the intervening days, at the disposal of the secretaries, for deputation work on behalf of the society.

4. That it be an instruction to the secretaries to correspond with all our churches, with a view to the organisation of a thorough working auxiliary in connection with every church.

5. That we do not think it expedient to send out at once more than one missionary and his wife, but that the committee and officers of the society be urged to adopt immediate measures for raising the income to such a sum as shall suffice to sustain a staff of at least seven missionaries.

In the evening a public meeting was held in the chapel; Mr. Alderman Longdon occupied the chair. The Rev. Isaac Stubbs, a returned missionary, opened with an interesting and touching reference to the toils and self-sacrifice of the servants of the mission in Orissa; the Rev. E. H. Jackson, of Castle Donington, in an eloquent and poetical speech, spoke of the claims of India upon English Christians; the Rev. J. Clifford, M.A., LL.B., of London, answered in a most masterly and argumentative way the objections of modern scientific men to missions; the Rev. Giles Hester, of Sheffield, dwelt upon the advantages to ministers and churches of a careful study and thoughtful consideration of the various mission-fields and their work; and the Rev. W. E. Winks, of Wisbech, enforced upon all supporters of missions, system, method, adequacy, and cheerfulness in their contributions. The meeting broke up at a quarter to ten, with thanks to the chairman, and a brief devotional service. It was one of the best missionary meetings ever held on behalf of the Orissa, or any other mission.

THE SPECIAL EVENING SERVICES under the dome of St. Paul's will be commenced on Sunday, January 2, when the sermon will be preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

SCARBOROUGH.—The Rev. J. Sidney Hall, of Falcon-square Chapel, has received the unanimous and very hearty call of the Bar Church, Scarborough, to take the pastoral charge.

UPPINGHAM.—Mr. E. Stanway Jackson, of Hackney College, has accepted a very cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate from the church and congregation at Uppingham.

ST. MARY CRAY.—The Rev. R. E. Forsaith has this week accepted an affectionate invitation from the church assembling in the Temple, St. Mary Cray, Kent, and enters on his new sphere of labour on the first Sunday in the new year.

MANCHESTER.—The Rev. Thomas Willis, of Pontefract, has accepted a cordial invitation to the pastorate of Grosvenor-street Chapel, Piccadilly, Manchester, and intends commencing his labours there on the first Sunday of the new year.

REGENT-SQUARE.—The congregation of Regent-square Presbyterian Church, London, have sustained another disappointment. They unanimously resolved to give a call to the Rev. A. White, colleague to Dr. Roxburgh, one of the Free Church ministers in Glasgow; but Mr. White declines the invitation.

A STRANGE AND DOUBTFUL EXPERIMENT.—At a meeting of the Evangelical Church Union, held on Wednesday, at Exeter Hall, it was announced that during the winter bands of persons would parade the streets and the suburbs of London, singing hymns and psalms, with a view of attracting persons not alive to the influences of religion, it being impossible to carry out open-air preaching to any successful extent during the cold months.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARIES IN INDIA.—Dr. Norman M'Leod has commenced his public agitation for the improvement of the condition of the Indian missionaries of the Established Church in Scotland. He convened a public meeting in the City Hall, Glasgow, which is capable of holding about 3,000 persons, and delivered a most telling address, recounting some of his Indian experiences, and showing what a grand work the missionaries of all Protestant Churches are accomplished in that densely populated region. After answering several of the objections made to missions, Dr. M'Leod stated that the object upon which his heart was set at present was to raise a fund of from 20,000*l.* to 25,000*l.*, whereby a missionary of the Church of Scotland, after he had spent twenty-five years in India, would be secure of a pension of 150*l.* for the rest of his life on his return home.

PORTSMOUTH.—Services in connection with the laying of the memorial stones of Auckland New Congregational Church, Portsmouth, were held on Thursday, December 3. A silver trowel having been presented, Jno. Kemp Welch, Esq., laid the stone, in which was deposited a leaden box containing some newspapers, and a document giving a brief history of the church. After the laying of the stone, the company adjourned to the old chapel, when Jno. Kemp Welch, Esq., gave an address of a congratulatory and encouraging character, and the Rev. Dr. Ferguson delivered an elaborate discourse on Congregationalism. About 170 persons afterwards sat down to a dinner provided by the ladies of the congregation; and in the evening a public meeting was held, when the Rev. Dr. Ferguson presided, and addresses were delivered by several ministers and friends. A considerable sum was realised towards the building fund.

UPPER HOLLOWAY.—A *soirée* was held at Upper Holloway (Baptist) Chapel, on Wednesday evening, Dec. 9th, in connection with the opening of the new school and lecture-rooms. These rooms are large and admirably constructed, the principal room being fifty-one feet by fifty-four. The Rev. S. H. Booth, the pastor of the church, occupied the chair, and in his opening address gave a brief history of the movement from the time, when fifteen months ago, the chapel built by the London Baptist Association was opened, and the church and congregation now gathered there, were only among the possibilities of the future. The financial statement showed the buildings had cost 1,550*l.*, towards which upwards of 1,100*l.* had been promised; leaving, together with certain other expenses incurred in completing the chapel, a balance on the "Supplementary Building Fund" of about 600*l.* The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Revs. Dr. Brock, W. G. Lewis, J. Hobson, F. Tucker, W. Roberts, Edward White, and R. Waters, Esq.

SURREY CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—The sixth annual meeting of the Surrey Congregational Union was held at Grafton-square Church, Clapham, on Tuesday, December 8, when the Rev. J. G. Rogers was unanimously chosen chairman for the coming year. At half-past ten the Rev. A. Hannay, of Croydon, preached an eloquent sermon on "Things which cannot be shaken." In the afternoon, the report was read by the Rev. F. Stephens, after which liberal grants were made to various necessitous districts. The recent death of one of the founders of the Union, the Rev. R. W. Bette, of Peckham, was the subject of a resolution of condolence with the widow and the bereaved church. A paper was read by the Rev. W. A. Essery on "The present condition and the future efficiency of our week-evening services," followed by a discussion in which the Revs. R. Berry, G. M. Murphy, G. M'Call, &c., took part; and the proceedings were brought to a close by a public meeting in the evening, at which various addresses were delivered as to the religious condition of Surrey.

DARWEN, LANCASHIRE.—On Saturday, the 5th inst., new day and Sunday schools were opened in Darwen, raised partly by the gifts and partly by the proceeds of the late Art Exhibition of the church and congregation at Belgrave-square, under the pastorate of the Rev. Jas. McDougall. The inaugural meeting was preceded by a tea party, at which upwards of 650 sat down, and addresses were delivered by Mr. Eccles Shorrocks, J.P. (the chairman), Mr. Dimmock, the Rev. E. Green, Mr. R. S. Ashton, J.P., the Rev. J. McDougall, Mr. Joseph Leech, Mr. Henry Green, Mr. W. T. Ashton, and others. These spacious and elegant schools have been erected from designs by Mr. Ernest Bates at a cost of about 2,000*l.* They will seat for service 800 persons, but

are designed chiefly for day-school purposes, under Government inspection, and will accommodate 500 pupils. With the new year it is hoped the schools will be in active operation, situated as they are in a part of Darwen much needing such institutions. They form a branch of the Belgrave Central Schools.

BOGNOR.—For more than two years the Congregationalists of this rising watering-place have been exerting themselves to provide a larger and more commodious place of worship. On Monday, the 30th ult., the corner-stone of the new structure was laid by T. Kemp Welch, Esq. In a cavity of the stone was placed a bottle, which contained, besides the *Times* for the day, and a declaration of the faith, church order, and discipline of Congregational Churches, the following document:—"This building is designed as a place of worship for the use of the religious body commonly known as Congregationalists. Building committee: S. Morley, Esq., M.P., H. Hountoun, Esq., Mrs. Hewett, the Rev. W. Knight, Mr. Robinson, the Rev. G. W. Fishbourne, Mr. Harman. The Rev. W. Herbert Drewett, pastor; Mr. C. D. Blabes, architect; Mr. Snewin, contractor." In the evening a public meeting was held, which was addressed by the Rev. W. Knight, of Littlehampton; G. W. Fishbourne, of Bognor; and J. Vaughan Pryce, M.A., LL.B., of Brighton, who delivered a very able exposition of Congregational principles. The chapel will be in Gothic style of architecture, and will seat 350 persons on the ground floor. Provision has been made for the erection of galleries, when necessary. The total cost (including site) will be about 2,400*l.* Of this amount 1,400*l.* is secured. At least 400*l.* more ought to be raised before the building is completed.

Correspondence.

GLASGOW CITY CHURCHES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of our Town Council, the other day, the income and the expenditure of the City Churches was read, when Mr. Lang remarked he thought it would be a good thing to hand over the churches to the various congregations, upon the condition that they would support themselves, and trouble the Council no more. On the following day, a letter from "A Churchman" appeared in the *Herald*, taking Mr. Lang to task for some of his statements. The following letter is Mr. Lang's reply, which will show your readers how the Established Church in Glasgow is supported. Going back twenty-five years—to '43, the year of the disruption—the City Churches have cost the citizens of Glasgow upwards of 60,000*l.* Is it any wonder, then, that "the Scotch constituencies see no benefit in a religious establishment at all." And it is to be hoped, as *Blackwood* says, "They will begin upon their own Kirk as soon as the Irish Church is got rid of; and when they do so neither Mr. Gladstone nor anybody else will be able to stop them."

Yours truly,
R.

Glasgow, Dec. 11, 1868.

TO THE EDITOR OF GLASGOW HERALD.

SIR,—I beg to answer the letter in your issue of to-day of "A Churchman, a Reformer," &c.

He accuses me by name virtually of a misstatement at the last meeting of Town Council. If I made one then, I did so on very good authority, namely, that of our excellent City Chamberlain, from whose abstract of City accounts I was reading when making my statement—giving my "fling," as the "Churchman" so classically terms it. That statement gives the following as the revenues derived from the whole City Churches by the Corporation last year, viz. :—

Blackfriars	£31 14 0
St. Andrew's	256 13 0
St. George's	214 3 11
Iron	434 5 9
St. Enoch's	387 6 1
St. David's	45 1 0
St. John's	390 17 10
St. James'	339 19 7
St. Paul's	165 3 10
Inner High (Cathedral)	265 10 9

As to expenditure, the Chamberlain gives as—	£2,530 15 9
Ordinary	£4,562 10 2
Extraordinary	193 2 7

£4,755 12 9

In the ordinary expenditure each clergyman's stipend is stated at 425*l.*, except one, which is stated at 400*l.* Now, what I did say was that not one of these churches paid the relative outlay—one certainly by a few pounds, exceeds its minister's stipend—but the other expenditure by the city for that very minister's church swallows up that surplus and four times its amount. I cannot understand why wealthy city congregations should do that which poor Dissenting congregations never dream of—become pensioners on the corporation funds for the proclamation of the truth to their members.

Your obedient servant,

J. L. LANG.

Ravenside, Glasgow, Nov. 30, 1868.

PROPOSED NEW REFORM BILL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—The country having so recently passed through the turmoil of a Reform agitation, and the Legislature having passed a Reform Act, it might appear that a letter under the above heading was totally uncalled for. But I hope, if you will allow me space, to show that we are very far from perfection, and that some

changes which I venture to propose would give expression to the mind of the country far more effectually than the present "reformed" system.

We have got our new Parliament. Does not every one feel that to effect that object we have passed through a trying and unnatural ordeal? Not to mention the anxiety, the hard labour, and the great expense connected with the late general election, who can estimate the amount of unfair means and undue influences in the way of intimidation, compulsion, and even actual bribery, that have been had recourse to, more or less, by both parties? And who can adequately measure the extent of injury that has been done to men and property in the course of the last election? How many electors have seriously suffered in their consciences, or their persons, or their characters, or in their circumstances! Upon others the consequences have yet to come. Then we cannot make sure that in a year or two at least all the disturbance, expenditure, and wrong-doing may be repeated, possibly on a wider scale than now.

I feel sure there must be thousands who believe that some method of conducting the business of a general election less disturbing to the comfort of the community at large, less subversive of their morals, and less blighting to their Christian character than the present, might be adopted. The subject has for some time occupied my attention, and I have thought over a plan which I beg to submit through your columns for public consideration, in the hope that it may meet with favour and acceptance. The following is an outline of my proposals:—

I. *Preparations for the Election.*—That the Government should prepare voting cards, stamped with such devices and in such a manner, as would defy any spurious imitations. That a blank be left on each card to write upon it the name or names of the candidate or of the candidates that seek the honour of representing any borough, or boroughs, or any county, any constituency in Parliament. That the cards should be sold at every post-office during the month of January only in every year, at the price of five shillings each, and then to be properly stamped; the year and the day of the month being given. That the Postmaster should take the name and residence of every person to whom a card was sold, and be liable to a heavy penalty, or be deprived of his office, if he should sell more than one card to the same individual, during the same year. And that whosoever should purchase more than one card in the same year, should also be subject to a heavy penalty. That every man twenty-one years of age, and upwards (prisoners excepted) should, if he be so disposed, have a card for five shillings, which would entitle him to be a voter during that year. That a heavy penalty should be imposed upon any one that should either sell or give a card to another person. The cards to be obtained at the post-office only, and that only in the month of January in each year.

II. *The Method of the Elections.*—That every candidate should be at liberty to send out as many public addresses and hold as many public meetings, either himself, or in connection with his friends, as they may think proper; but that no personal canvassing should be allowed. That a penalty of 100*l.* be imposed on every person who shall ask another for his vote, either for himself or for another candidate, and also upon every one who may inquire of a voter, after an election is over, for whom he had voted. That every one should be at perfect liberty to be a voter or not, and to give his vote in favour of any candidate that he may think proper. This would not be any obstacle in the way of any one to vote publicly for any candidate if he be so disposed. That the polling days, and the place where the polling is to be held, should be made public. That every voter should bring his card to the polling-booth to be shown to the proper officers, and forthwith to be stamped by them (noting down the date of the poll) in the same manner in which railway tickets are stamped. Then the voter should be shown to a room prepared for the purpose, and there and then by himself write the name of the candidate for whom he records his vote on his card, and then deposit it in a box in the same manner as a letter is posted. His vote would then be considered as properly recorded, and his work at the election would be fully completed.

III. *The Advantages of this Plan.*—It would be very simple and easy. It would allow every one to be a voter or not, as he might think proper. It would prevent every voter from being injured by any one for recording his vote according to his own judgment and convictions, because he himself would have to write upon his card, and to deposit it into the box, which would be locked up until the time came for the officers to open it. The payment of five shillings would serve as a proof that every elector attached some value and importance to his vote. The payment of the fee would also be a kind of guarantee that the voter possessed some degree of education, at least as far as to be able to write the name of the candidate for whom he would record his vote on his card.

It would further be an efficient means of keeping out of the election those who were indifferent to the political interests of the country, and those who neither respect themselves nor the nation's welfare. This plan would also, I think, in a great degree, prevent bribery, and every unfair means of procuring votes, and as far as possible put all men on the same level. If it be objected that five shillings a year is rather much for the poor,

and hardly anything at all to the wealthy, I may reply that the poor would have the same voice in the election of members of Parliament as the wealthy, and it would be of more value to them than five shillings a year to return proper representatives to the House of Commons.

The scheme would also save all the expenses in connection with the revising barristers, canvassing, and the conveyance of voters to record their votes at the polling-booth; and it would also be the means of preventing much of the falsehood, the deceit, and the bad feeling, and a host of other evils, that are too prevalent in connection with the present mode of electioneering. I think it must be further evident that such a plan would ascertain the real voice and feeling of the country in a more complete and efficacious manner than at present. Of course the fee of five shillings a head for the voting-cards would produce, in the aggregate, a large sum, which might help to lighten the taxation of the country. The scheme would also have the effect of preventing the prying into the circumstances of electors, such as prevails under the present system, purifying the constituent bodies, and raising the standard of morality both among candidates and electors.

Other advantages might be pointed out, but at present I forbear. Should my suggestions meet with approval, I should like to see a society formed for carrying them into effect.

I am, yours truly,

E. HUGHES.

Penmain, Mon.,
December, 1868.

THE OPENING OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

The first session of the eighth Parliament in the reign of her Most Gracious Majesty has opened on Thursday. The new Reform Act not having effected any change in the constitution of the House of Lords, and it being known that nothing beyond some formal preliminaries of the sessional business would be gone through, the proceedings did not seem to excite much interest within the House itself. Some half-dozen ladies occupied places on the peers' benches at the Opposition side. There were only a few peers present, and the diplomatic body was represented by Mr. Reverdy Johnson, the American Minister.

Before noticing what took place within doors, we must refer to the scene outside the two Houses. There was a great crowd in New Palace-yard and in Westminster Hall, who were kept in lines, and for a considerable time newly-elected members arrived and passed into the House without the least public recognition in the way of cheering or otherwise. One reporter says:—

The silence was broken occasionally by a little cheering, but it was directed chiefly towards some metropolitan members. Mr. Charles Reed, of Hackney, was the first cheered; Mr. Salomons, the colleague of the Premier, was also received with hearty cordiality. The Duke of Argyll, Earl Granville, Lord Chelmsford, Mr. Vernon Harcourt, and Sir Roundell Palmer, passed through Westminster Hall so closely as to be, to some extent, in company, but were only recognised by the few. Mr. Reverdy Johnson, the American Ambassador, entered, and was cheered on passing through the hall, where his name quickly passed from mouth to mouth, and on his return, after a short stay, loud and hearty cheers were given him, and these were renewed by the people in Palace-yard. Mr. Disraeli was the only one whose arrival caused any stir. The people were in ranks when he arrived, but some of his supporters having cheered him, and broken the ranks to continue the demonstration, the cheers were followed by a tremendous howl of disapprobation, and a general rush was made to the Star Court entrance, down which the right hon. gentleman had disappeared. The police stopped the crowd, and order was at once resumed. A somewhat quieter demonstration greeted Mr. Smith, the newly-elected member for Westminster. On entering Westminster Hall he was cheered by some few persons near the door. He turned to acknowledge the salute, and his face was seen by the people generally. The result was that he disappeared into the House amid the most marked tokens of public dislike, intermingled with a few cheers. The members, other than Mr. Disraeli, of the late Cabinet who attended were treated with silence. When the business of the House was over, the people would not believe that Mr. Gladstone and his Ministers would not attend. The assemblage waited patiently and in perfect order until Mr. Disraeli issued from the House in company with a few members of his late Government. At once a rush was made by his supporters, chiefly some very young men, who waved their hats and cheered lustily. A counter-demonstration at once followed. The crowd generally broke the ranks, and as fast as the cheers were given deep groaning followed. There is little doubt that the pressure of friends and opponents would have been too much for the ex-Premier and his friends but for the police, who, acting under the instructions of superintendents, at once formed a complete guard, sides, front, and rear, to the party. The party went through the Horse Guards, followed still by a large crowd, but the late Prime Minister was apparently quite unmoved, and took not the slightest notice of his "following." The expressions of disappointment at not seeing Mr. Gladstone were loud and general.

Precisely at two o'clock the Lord Chancellor, preceded by the Mace and Purse Bearers, walked up the House of Lords and passed into the room behind the Throne. Having there joined the other Royal Commissioners, he again entered the House in com-

pany with those noble lords. The Royal Commissioners, as usual, took their seats on a bench placed in front of the Throne. They were—the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Kimberley, the Earl de Grey, and Lord Sydney. What ensued is thus sketched by the *Daily News*:—

There are few persons or things out of a pantomime more ridiculous in appearance than a Lord Commissioner when fully equipped in his cumbersome robes and absurd cocked hat; and the four noble lords whose names we have mentioned were made to look more ludicrous than usual by the comparative simplicity of the Lord Chancellor's attire. Fortunately, on this occasion, it was not for very long that these four estimable noblemen, three of them members of the administration and the fourth the highest officer of the Royal household, were exposed, "from circumstances over which they had no control," to the ridicule of all beholders. The despatch of Black Rod to the House of Commons was speedily followed by the tumultuous entry of the members of that assembly, with Sir D. Le Marchant, clerk, and Lord C. Russell, sergeant-at-arms, at their head. It was not a lengthy or a very important message which the Lord Chancellor had to read, but such as it was—its purport being that after the members of both Houses had taken the oaths the Queen would inform them why she had thought it necessary to call Parliament together, and that in the meantime the Commons must choose one of their body to fill the office of Speaker—Sir W. Page Wood read it in so clear and distinct a voice as to prove that if his reputation as a debater in the House of Lords does not equal that which he acquired in the Lower House it will be owing to no lack of ability to cope with the acoustic difficulties of the gilded chamber. As soon as they had received this intimation of her Majesty's intentions and wishes, the Commons retired from the bar, and the Lords Commissioners left the House as speedily and as gracefully as their eccentric costumes would allow. Soon afterwards the Lord Chancellor resumed his seat on the woolsack, and several noble lords took the oath, and signed the roll of Parliament. Their Lordships adjourned about half-past four o'clock.

The members of the new House of Commons began to assemble soon after one o'clock, and it is noted that Mr. Hadfield was the first to arrive. Before the message was received desiring the attendance of the Commons in the House of Lords, some 400 members (including the late Prime Minister and several of his most prominent colleagues) had assembled, and were gathered in groups—almost in a crowd—upon the floor of the House, eagerly, and indeed somewhat noisily, discussing the changes which had taken place both in their own body and in the Administration since they last met.

When, upon his return from the Upper House, Sir Denis Le Marchant took his seat at the table, the House was decidedly full. With the exception of the Treasury Bench, every seat on the Ministerial side was occupied, but the opposite benches were not equally well filled. For a short time the new Government was represented by Mr. Ayrton; but the new Secretary of the Treasury was speedily joined by the Lord Advocate, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Mr. Grant Duff, and, later still, by his colleague, Mr. Glyn. Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, Mr. Lowe, and the other members of the new Government, whose acceptance of office necessitates their re-election, were of course absent; and it was somewhat curious to look upon so full a House and yet miss their familiar faces and figures. Almost all, if not all, the members of the House of Commons who held office under the late Administration, and who still retain their seats, were in their places. Mr. Disraeli, freed from the accidents of office, had returned to the more familiar seat occupied by the leader of the Opposition, while right or left he was supported by Mr. Hardy, Lord J. Manners, Sir S. Northcote, Sir J. Pakington, Mr. Ward Hunt, Mr. Corry, Mr. W. Patten, and Mr. Mowbray. We did not notice Lord Stanley, but he may have been there, although "out of sight." Sir G. Grey sat at the gangway end of the bench immediately behind that occupied by the members of the Government, and next to him was Sir R. Palmer. Mr. J. Evelyn Denison, the late Speaker, took his place upon the front bench, immediately below the gangway, on the Ministerial side of the House. Almost as soon as Sir Denis was seated, Sir G. Grey rose to move the re-election of Mr. Denison as Speaker; and most admirably did the right honourable baronet acquit himself of this task. Those who were accustomed to Sir George's usually impassioned, rapid, and "steep-leehasing" style of oratory, were as much surprised as pleased at the easy, graceful, and impressive manner in which he dwelt upon the services which Mr. Denison had already rendered, upon his eminent qualifications for the Speakership, and upon the advantages which must result to a House of Commons which included a large proportion of new members from having as the guide, and, if necessary, the director of its deliberations, a gentleman who enjoyed so large an experience of Parliamentary practice, and had proved himself so thoroughly competent to discharge the duties of his office. The few observations in which Mr. Walpole seconded the nomination of the member for North Nottinghamshire, were delivered in that right hon. gentleman's most lugubrious and funereal manner, and it really seemed, to borrow a familiar quotation, as though he had "come to bury" Mr. Denison, "and not to praise him." Praise him, however, he certainly did, and that, no doubt, earnestly and sincerely; and all his words of commendation were cheered by his hearers, as had already been the more heartily delivered, though not more cordially intended, commendations of Sir G. Grey.

When Mr. Walpole resumed his seat there was a short pause, and then, as no competitor was proposed, Mr. Denison rose to acknowledge the honour which had been thus conferred upon him. The right hon. gentleman evidently spoke under the influence of considerable emotion, as follows:—

I am deeply moved, the House will believe, by the words which have been spoken by my right hon. friends, and by the manner in which the nomination has been accepted by the House. The House proposes to me a great honour, and it has greatly enhanced the value of that honour by the manner in which it is conferred. After filling the chair in three Parliaments, to have a

nomination proposed from both sides of the House, and accepted with general concurrence, is an acknowledgment highly prized, and which can never be forgotten by me. It would be unbecoming in me to occupy the time of the House by a single unnecessary word, and I confine myself to the simple expression of my thanks. Whatever of health and strength may be yet granted to me I freely dedicate to the service of the House—(cheers)—and I now submit myself to its pleasure. (Cheers.)

The Speaker-Elect was then conducted to the chair by Sir G. Grey and Mr. Walpole, the members all standing until he had reached it. The right hon. gentleman proceeded to say:—

I was about to prefer a request to the House, but I feel, by the manner in which the proceedings of to-day have been conducted, that this favour has been already virtually granted. I was about to ask that the full measure of gracious confidence and generous support which has been afforded me on past occasions, and by which alone the duties of my office can be effectually performed, may be still extended to me. (Cheers.) My right hon. friend who seconded the nomination has observed that this is not an ordinary occasion, and that new responsibilities devolve upon us all, and perhaps more particularly on the person who is chosen to preside over this House. We are met to-day under a new state of the electoral law. The late House of Commons was considered not adequately to represent the great body of the people, and the present House has been elected on the basis of household suffrage. It has thus been endowed with a considerable increase of power. Whatever measures it may, after due deliberation, consider necessary for the public good, it will doubtless deal with boldly and firmly. At the same time it will not forget that the great grace and ornament of strength is moderation in its exercise—asserting itself, but respecting the rights of others; and this House has always in its own proceedings acted in that spirit. It has afforded protection to minorities, it has permitted freedom of speech and ample latitude of debate, and without doubt it will not depart from that course. I hope and firmly believe that this House will prove itself worthy of its high destinies, and that it will be found second to none of those which have preceded it in those great qualities which have made the House of Commons famous as the cradle of liberty and the bulwark of order and of law. I once more make my grateful and respectful acknowledgments for the great honour you have conferred upon me. (General cheering.)

Nothing remained to be done but to congratulate the right hon. gentleman upon his re-election, and this task was performed by the Lord Advocate (Mr. Moncrieff) in a few pointed and well-chosen sentences, in which he did not omit to notice the increased importance and dignity which the House of Commons, and through the House its Speaker, had acquired by the extension of the franchise. Immediately afterwards the House adjourned, and the friends of Mr. Denison pressed round him to offer their individual congratulations. Although, contrary to custom, Mr. Disraeli had added nothing to the public felicitations of the Lord Advocate, he was the first to shake the Speaker by the hand, and to offer him his good wishes.

The business transacted in the two Houses on Friday was of a purely formal character, and was confined to the presentation of the Speaker and the swearing-in of members. In obedience to the summons of the Lords Commissioners, Mr. Denison appeared at the bar of the House of Lords soon after two o'clock; and having informed them that he had been elected Speaker of the House of Commons, received from the Lord Chancellor an assurance of her Majesty's approval of the choice which had been made. The right hon. gentleman preferred the usual request for the confirmation of the privileges of the Lower House; and these, through the mouth of the keeper of her conscience, the Queen was pleased to promise should be respected as amply as they had been granted by any of her predecessors. Then Mr. Speaker returned to the other House, and when he had briefly informed the members of what had taken place, the remainder of the sitting was devoted to the taking of oaths.

Two additional tables were placed in the centre of the House, and on these tables, and on the table in front of the Speaker's chair, there were laid forty copies of the New Testament, and copies of the Oath of Allegiance, to enable several members to take the oath at the same time. The members have now simply to take the oath of allegiance, and they can be sworn, according to a recent change in the rules of the House, after four o'clock, consequently less time will be taken than on former occasions in getting through this preliminary business. Something more must be done, however, than taking the oaths; each member when sworn must subscribe the roll, and that, of course, protracts the proceedings. The Speaker set the example by himself taking the oath and subscribing the roll. Sir George Grey came next, and he was followed by Mr. Walpole. Amongst the other members who took oaths in the first batch were Lord Stanley, Lord John Manners, Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Lord Robert Montagu, Mr. Corry, and Mr. Monsell. About 350 members were sworn in during the sitting. The House adjourned at twenty minutes past five o'clock.

On Saturday and Monday about 100 additional members were sworn in.

When the two Houses met yesterday afternoon the following Royal message was delivered by the Lord Chancellor:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

We have it further in command from her Majesty to acquaint you that since the time when her Majesty deemed it right to call you together for the consideration of many grave and important matters, several vacancies have occurred in the House of Commons, owing to the acceptance of office from the Crown by Members of that House. It is, therefore, her Majesty's pleasure that an opportunity may now be given to issue writs for supplying the vacancies so occasioned; and

that after a suitable recess you may proceed to the consideration of such matters as will then be laid before you.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

THE RE-ELECTIONS.

GREENWICH.—THE PREMIER'S ADDRESS.—The following address, seeking re-election, has been issued by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone to the electors of the borough of Greenwich:—

11, Carlton House-terrace, Dec. 10, 1868.

Gentlemen,—Since the time when you were pleased to elect me as one of your representatives, the Government which was then in power has resigned, and I have been called upon by her Most Gracious Majesty to meet the public necessity thus created by the formation of an Administration to conduct affairs, and to prepare for Parliament the proposals which the condition of the country demands.

After the share I have taken in recommending the measures which have been principally under the view of the constituencies during the recent elections, it was impossible for me, consistently with loyalty and honour, to decline the commission thus entrusted to me by her Majesty.

I have, accordingly, accepted the office of First Lord of the Treasury, and I have been, and still am, actively engaged in the endeavour to form an Administration which may, I trust, deserve the confidence of the country, and will certainly use every effort in office to give effect to the great measures which, out of office, its members generally have agreed in recommending to the country.

It is under these circumstances that I solicit a renewal of my trust. I am aware that I must rely wholly on your indulgence, for my time and thoughts are absorbed by imperious demands, which do not leave to me the usual opportunities of appearing among you before the day of election, and which suggest that others might be more capable of doing full justice to your local interests. But I have felt it my duty to place the question before you in a broader view; and, grateful, as I have just reason to be, for the past, all that it has brought me of your public spirit now renders me not less confident of the coming issue, which I very respectfully leave in your hands.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient and faithful servant,
W. E. GLADSTONE.

It is proposed to return Mr. Gladstone free of expense. The nomination will probably take place next Monday at Blackheath. No opposition to Mr. Gladstone is expected.

BIRMINGHAM.—Mr. Bright, though his friends offered to let him off, will go down to Birmingham for his re-election, and will explain to his constituents his reasons for accepting office under Mr. Gladstone. He will, of course, be returned without opposition. The following is Mr. Bright's address:—

To the Electors of Birmingham.

Gentlemen,—It is not a month since you selected me as one of your representatives in Parliament, and before Parliament met the seat you entrusted to me became vacant. I have accepted office in the administration which Mr. Gladstone has just formed, and I must return to you to sanction the step I have taken. I trust you will not withdraw the confidence you have so long placed in me. I shall feel it a great honour again to be elected to represent your voice and interests in the House of Commons. On the day of election I hope to be permitted to say more than can be conveniently said in this address.

I am, &c.,
JOHN BRIGHT.

Reform Club, Dec. 12.

The election is expected to take place on Monday.

OXFORD.—Mr. Cardwell, Secretary of State for War, has issued an address to his Oxford constituents, seeking re-election. There will be no opposition. Mr. Cardwell hopes that in his new office he will be enabled to give effect to the principle which his constituents approve.

EXETER.—Sir J. D. Coleridge, Q.C., having accepted the office of Solicitor-General, will go down to Exeter for re-election. In his address the hon. gentleman said:—

I have taken office with great reluctance. Not that I am insensible to the honour of serving the Crown; still less that my allegiance to those Liberal principles which I have professed and that great statesman whom I have followed is in the slightest degree abated. But I should much have preferred to remain a member of Parliament and of the Bar, distinguished only by being your representative. A man, however, has no right to indulge his private wishes if those whom he is bound to respect think he may be of use in the public service. Mr. Coleridge will be unopposed.

A SCENE AT THE LATE ELECTION FOR WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* states that during the polling at Thornbury for the election for West Gloucestershire, several clergymen made themselves most conspicuous in bringing up voters, and did not hesitate to come up arm-in-arm with men who were intoxicated. In one case a man was brought arm-in-arm by a clergyman, who was so drunk that it was impossible to poll him, the only answer that could be extracted from him in reply to "Who do you vote for?" being, "For myself." This verily seems doing evil that good may come. I suppose these clergy thought that the end sanctified the means.

DUMFRIESSHIRE.—There seems to be no doubt that a new election will be necessary, but it is stated that the leading Conservatives of the county have resolved not to oppose the re-election of Sir Sydney Waterlow.

CRICKLADE.—It is denied that the Hon. Mr. Cadogan is likely to resign his seat in favour of the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce, the Home Secretary.

LIBERAL ASSOCIATION FOR NORTH WALES.—An influential meeting was held at the Westminster

Palace Hotel on Thursday, when Mr. Sorton Parry, the High Sheriff of Carnarvonshire, a gentleman who takes a deep interest in the general welfare of the Principality, presided, and the newly elected members for Anglesea, Carnarvonshire, Merionethshire, and Denbighshire, with Mr. David Pugh, Mr. Breese, Mr. Hugh Pugh, Mr. R. D. Williams, and other of the chief workers in the recent contest, were present. The question of establishing a Liberal Association for North Wales was discussed at considerable length. Mr. Osborne Morgan remarked that the triumphs of the election in North Wales were achieved by the enthusiasm of the people, and if they are to be repeated and extended, it must be by organisation. This feeling was fully endorsed by the meeting, and various suggestions were made and considered as to the best organisation to effect the object of the proposed association. Eventually it was unanimously decided that local registration associations should be established in every county of North Wales, and that president and vice-president of each should form a council, with which the Liverpool Reform Association should be requested to co-operate.

PROFESSIONS IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT.—In the *Spectator* we find the following analysis of the professions of the members elected to the new House of Commons:—Deputy-Lieutenants or Magistrates—England and Wales, 251; Scotland, 30; Ireland, 50. Officers in the army, now or formerly—England and Wales, 65; Scotland, 10; Ireland, 23. Officers in the navy, now or formerly—England and Wales, 5; Scotland, 2; Ireland, 2. Called to the Bar—England and Wales, 81; Scotland, 9; Ireland, 12. Merchants, Manufacturers, or Traders—England and Wales, 98; Scotland, 15; Ireland, 11. Yeomanry, militia, or volunteers—England and Wales, 95; Scotland, 12; Ireland, 18. Architects, medical men, &c.—England and Wales, 19; Scotland, 4; Ireland, 3. Bankers—England and Wales, 15; Scotland, 2.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

The following is a correct list of petitions against members for cities and boroughs under the Parliamentary Election Act, 1868. Although nearly eighty members have been petitioned against, not more than a dozen have availed themselves of the new rule (10) appointing an agent:—

Borough or City.	Appellants.	Respondents.
Norwich	Tillet.	Stracey, Bart.
Gloucester	Niblett & others.	Price and Monk.
New Windsor	Gardner.	Eykyn.
Bewdley	Sturge and others.	Glass.
Covey	Boory.	Eaton and Hill.
Bridgwater	Westropp and another.	Kinglake and Vanderbyl.
Warrington	Crozier and others.	Rylands.
Guildford	Elkins and others.	Onslow.
Salford	Anderson and Cawley and others.	Charley.
Hereford	Thomas & others.	Wyllie and Clive.
Bodmin	Adam and others.	Hon. E. F. L. Gower.
Stockport	Hallam & another.	Tipping.
The Same	Walton & another.	Smith.
Bradford	Storey & another.	Forster.
Same	Haley and others.	Ripley.
Pearya	Broad and others.	Fowler and Eastwick.
Lichfield	Hon. A. Anson.	Dyott.
Beverley	Hind and others.	Sir H. Edwards and Kennard.
Wallingford	Sir C. Dilke.	Vickers.
Cheltenham	Gardner.	Samuelson.
Westbury	Laverton.	Phipps.
Oldham	Cobbett & others.	Hibbert and Platt.
Horsham	Hurst.	Aldridge.
Stalybridge	Ogden and others.	Sidebotham.
Tamworth	Hill and another.	Sir B. Peel and Sir H. Bulwer.
Wigan	Brashay and another.	Woods and Lancaster.
Ashton - under - Lyne	Clarke.	Mellor.
Westminster	Beal and another.	Smith.
Hartlepool	Gray and others.	Jackson.
Kingston - upon - Hull	Pease and others.	Norwood and Clay.
Taunton	Dyke & another.	Barclay.
Same	Williams and another.	Cox.
King's Lynn	Armes & another.	Bourke.
Blackburn	Potter & another.	Hornby and Fielden.
Preston	Toulmer.	Hesketh and Hermon.
Pembroke	Hughes.	Meyrick.
York	Brovill.	Westhead.
Same	Gladstone.	Lowther.
London	Piercey.	Right Hon. G. Goschen, Crawford, and Lawrence.

Cambridge	Lloyd & another.	Torrens & Fowler.
Horsham	Dickens and another.	Hurst.
Rye	Judge.	Hardy.
Manchester	Royce & another.	Birley.
Woodstock	Godden & others.	Barnett.
Boston	Jones.	Malcolm and Collins.
Northallerton	Johns.	Hutton.
Becknock	Lucas.	Gwyn.
Worcester	Richards.	Laslett.
Thirsk	Bell and others.	Gallway.
Christchurch	Popham & others.	Burke.
Shrewsbury	Young.	Figgins.
Hastings	Hon. — Calthorpe and another.	Brassey the yr.
Same	Sutton & another.	North.
New Sarum	Ryder.	Hamilton.

There is also a petition from Southampton against the return of Mr. Hoare, who was returned by a

majority of seventeen votes, and claiming the seat for Mr. Moffatt.

The number is fifty-five for boroughs, including cities. The petitions against county members will not be lodged for some days longer, as twenty-one days are allowed after the return of the writ to the Clerk of the Crown. The judges appointed to try election petitions will appoint sittings, to be held after Christmas.

The petition against the three Liberals for the City of London charges undue influence and coercion as having been exercised to prevent electors from voting for the Conservative candidates, or to induce them to vote for the Liberals. Also that personation was practised in the interest of the sitting members above-mentioned, and that aliens voted contrary to law. The petition prays that the election as respects Messrs. Goschen, Crawford, and Lawrence may be declared void, and that Mr. Philip Twells and Mr. Alderman Gibbons, the Conservatives next on the poll, may be declared duly elected in the place of Messrs. Crawford and Lawrence.

A petition against the return of the Lord Advocate, Mr. Moncreiff, for the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen, is said to have been determined upon. The ground upon which the petition is based is that of bribery, which consisted in the payment of electors' registration fees by associations formed in the interest of Mr. Moncreiff.

Petitions were lodged on Saturday against the return of Major Knox for Sligo, on the ground of bribery and treating, and against the return of Major Gavin and Mr. Russell for Limerick, on the ground of bribery, treating, and undue influence. There are also petitions, as we have already stated, against the returns for Drogheda and Dublin. Petitions are also expected against the returns for Athlone, Derry, and Carrickfergus.

The two seats for South Warwickshire are to be claimed for Lord Hyde, the eldest son of the Earl of Clarendon, and Sir R. N. O. Hamilton, K.C.B., the defeated Liberal candidates. A considerable number of affidavits have been taken during the last few days to the effect that the most unscrupulous practices were resorted to by some agents of Messrs. J. Hardy and C. H. Wise, the candidates who were returned by a slight majority.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

The following list, we believe, comprises all the members of the new Administration:—

THE CABINET.

First Lord of the Treasury	The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.
Lord Chancellor	Lord Hatherley.
Lord President of the Council	Earl De Grey.
Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Kimberley.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	The Right Hon. R. Lowe.
First Lord of the Admiralty	The Right Hon. H. C. Childers.
Foreign Secretary	Earl of Clarendon.
Secretary for War	The Right Hon. E. Cardwell.
Secretary for India	Duke of Argyll.
Secretary for the Colonies	Earl Granville.
Secretary for the Home Department	The Right Hon. H. A. Bruce.
The Poor Law Board	J. Goschen.
President of the Board of Trade	The Right Hon. John Bright.
Postmaster General	Marquis of Hartington.
Secretary for Ireland	The Right Hon. Chichester Fortescue.

NOT IN THE CABINET.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Lord Dufferin.
Attorney-General	Sir R. Collier.
Solicitor-General	Sir J. D. Coleridge.
Vice-President of Education	The Right Hon. W. E. Forster.
Under Secretary for the Home Department	Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen.
Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Mr. Otway.
Under Secretary for India	Mr. Grant Duff.
Under Secretary for the Colonies	The Right Hon. W. Monnell.
Lord of the Admiralty	Lord John Hay.
Under Secretary for War	Lord Northbrook.
Secretary to the Admiralty	Mr. W. E. Baxter.
Secretary to the Board of Trade	Mr. Lefevre.
Secretary to Poor-law Board	Mr. A. Peel.
Chief Commissioner of Works	The Right Hon. A. H. Layard.
Third Lord of the Treasury	Mr. Stansfeld.
Junior Lords of the Treasury	Mr. Adam.
Joint Secretaries of the Treasury	Captain Vivian.
	Mr. Geo. Glynn.
	Mr. Ayrton.
Judge-Advocate-General	Sir C. O'Loughlen.

SCOTLAND.

Lord Advocate	The Right Hon. J. Moncreiff.
Solicitor-General for Scotland	Mr. G. Young.

IRELAND.

Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland	Earl Spencer.
Lord Chancellor of Ireland	Mr. Justice O'Hagan.
Attorney-General for Ireland	Serjeant Sullivan.
Solicitor-General for Ireland	Mr. Serjeant Barry.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

Lord Steward	The Earl of Bessborough.
Lord Chamberlain	Viscount Sidney.
Master of the Horse	Marquis of Ailesbury.
Master of the Buckhounds ...	The Earl of Cork.
Vice-Chamberlain	Lord Castlerosse.
Controller of the Household	Lord Otho Fitzgerald.
Captain of the Corps of Gentlemen at Arms	Lord Foley.
Lord in Waiting	Lord Normanby.

The Duchess of Argyll will be Mistress of the Robes under the new Government.

Her Majesty held two Privy Councils at Windsor on Wednesday, the first at one o'clock, and the second at half-past two. At the first Council the late Ministers delivered their several seals of office. The honour of knighthood was conferred upon R. Baggalley, Esq. (the late Solicitor-General), Mr. Justice Hayes, and Mr. Baron Cleasby. At the second Council, Mr. H. C. Childers and Mr. John Bright, having been sworn in as Privy Counsellors—Mr. Bright making an affirmation—and taken their seats at the Board, the seals of office were delivered to the various members of the new Ministry.

The Cabinet which has now taken office consists of fifteen members, the oldest of whom is Lord Clarendon, who is 68; the Lord Chancellor, 67; Mr. Gladstone, 59; Mr. Bright and Mr. Lowe, each 57; Mr. Cardwell, 55; Mr. Bruce and Earl Granville, each 53; the Duke of Argyll and Mr. Chichester Fortescue, each 45; the Earl of Kimberley, 42; Earl de Grey and Mr. Childers, each 41; Mr. Goschen, 37; and the Marquis of Hartington, 35. The Lord Chancellor, Mr. Bright, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Bruce, Mr. C. Fortescue, Lord Kimberley, and Mr. Childers, are respectively new to the duties of Cabinet Ministers.

Her Majesty held a Council on Saturday at Windsor Castle, at which the officers of the royal household in the late Government resigned their wands and badges, and these were transferred to their successors. Earl Spencer, Lord Dufferin, and Sir Colman O'Loughlin kissed hands on their several appointments as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Judge Advocate-General. Mr. Coleridge, the new Solicitor-General, was introduced, and received the honour of knighthood.

Lord Hatherley, the new Lord Chancellor, was sworn in on Saturday at his court in Lincoln's-inn, in the presence of Lord Justice Selwyn, the Master of the Rolls, and Vice-Chancellors Stuart, Malins, and Giffard. Sir Roundell Palmer made the motion that the administration of the oath should be recorded.

Sir G. M. Giffard has been appointed to the vacant Lord Justiceship, and Mr. W. M. James to the Vice-Chancellorship so placed at the disposal of the Government.

It is currently reported that Lord Chief Baron Kelly will be appointed to the vacant Lord Justiceship, with a peerage.

It is rumoured that the Marquis of Salisbury has received from Mr. Gladstone the offer of the Governor-Generalship of India, and has agreed to accept that splendid post, in place of Lord Mayo, whom he is to supersede. His lordship has intimated his intention of resigning the post of chairman of the Great Eastern Railway.

Why Mr. Bright took office is explained by the right hon. gentleman himself in a letter which he has addressed to Mr. Henry Ibbetson, of Sheffield. "It is a great pleasure to me," Mr. Bright says, "to know that you and your friends in Sheffield are satisfied with the course I have taken in joining the new Administration. I have done it with extreme reluctance, but the pressure put upon me was more than I could withstand. I hope I have done what it seemed finally my duty to do."

The *Times* says of the office which Mr. Stansfeld has undertaken:—"It had been announced that Mr. Stansfeld would be the Financial Secretary of the Treasury, but his friends may be glad to know that, though this is substantially true, it requires some formal modification. The duties of Financial Secretary have, in fact, become too onerous for any one man to discharge, and Mr. Gladstone has determined, in pursuance of an idea he attempted to carry out some years since, to divide the functions of that officer. There will be henceforth a Third Lord of the Treasury and a Financial Secretary. The Third Lord will undertake so much of the work of the First Lord as has hitherto been thrown upon the Financial Secretary in addition to the latter's proper duties, and he will, in fact, represent the department of receipt, whereas the Financial Secretary represents that of expenditure. Mr. Stansfeld will be this new functionary, or Third Lord." It will be seen from the foregoing that Mr. Stansfeld ranks next to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is the Second Lord of the Treasury, as the Premier is the First.

The *Times* states that the Hon. W. Cowper was asked to accept the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, but from motives which can be easily appreciated, he declined a post which, when dissociated from a seat in the Cabinet, is purely honorary, and, according to the ideas of our day, not easily defensible.

A very curious and novel circumstance has occurred in reference to Mr. Moncreiff, the Lord Advocate. After his nomination for the Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, and while the polling was in progress, he received his appointment; and, as the poll was not closed and declared before his accession to office, his re-election is unnecessary. Accordingly, the learned lord spoke on Thursday on the election of the Speaker.

Neither as a member of Parliament nor as a member of the Bar (says the *Times*) did Sir William Page Wood (the new Lord Chancellor) ever rank very high as an orator; but it may be safely said that on the Judicial Bench few of his brethren have ever held a higher position. He has shown himself a sound and able lawyer, most honest and conscientious, and wonderfully industrious and painstaking, and his courtesy and kindness have won for him the respect and even affection of the Bar. He is known to the world at large as a man of high character and attainments, a sincere and attached Churchman, though tolerant in his religious opinions, and a zealous supporter of the leading societies of the Established Church. He is also the author of more than one work on religious subjects. The new Lord Chancellor is gazetted as Baron Hatherley, of Down Hatherley, in the county of Gloucester.

MINISTERS AT FISHMONGERS' HALL.

On Thursday evening a banquet, on the magnificent scale which marks the public entertainments of the great City Corporation, was given by the Fishmongers' Company, in their fine hall at London-bridge. Mr. Kynaston, one of the wardens, presided, in the unavoidable absence, owing to indisposition, of the Prime Warden, Mr. George Moore. The American Minister was expected, but was unable to be present. The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the health of Her Majesty's Ministers, coupled with it the name of the Lord Chancellor.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in responding, referred in graceful and respectful terms to the inability of Sir Roundell Palmer to occupy the position he then filled. Speaking of his own political career, he said:—

More than twenty years ago I spoke and voted in favour of such a measure of household suffrage as last year became the law of the land. (Cheers.) I spoke and voted in its favour when it was advocated by Mr. Hume, when its supporters only mustered eighty, and when we were called destructives. During the time I have been absent from political life the happy result which we then aimed at has been attained. (Cheers.) And, speaking now to you in merely an historical point of view, what, I would ask you, are the great changes which have been effected since the days of Mr. Canning's administration? We have come to a state of things in which the Test and Corporation Acts are looked upon as a wild fiction of the past. We have arrived at a period when every one of our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen is admitted to the enjoyment of equal privileges with ourselves—when a Roman Catholic gentleman occupies in Ireland a position similar to that which I hold in this country. (Cheers.) We further have seen the Corn Laws, the Navigation Laws, and slavery abolished, and the last fragment of religious distinctions swept away by the admission of Jews into Parliament. (Cheers.) We have witnessed, too, the abolition of compulsory Church-rates; and lastly, we have had that great measure extending the franchise passed under the auspices of which the present House of Commons was elected. And are we not all, I would ask, glad that those great changes have been accomplished? (Cheers.) I cannot forget the lugubrious vaticinations by which they were preceded. You will now, however, admit that in repealing the Corn Laws it is not the agriculturists whom we have destroyed, but those bad feelings which set one class against another; that in promoting free trade it is not commerce which has been extinguished, but those fetters by which it had been hampered, and that in giving perfect equality to the members of every religious persuasion it is not religion itself which has been swept away, but those hard-and-fast lines by which the members of one faith were separated from another. (Cheers.) Nothing, in my opinion, can be more fatal than to place an Act of Parliament between the heart of any man and one's own, and I am happy to think that principles of government have now been established in this country which are not likely to fail us, and which will do away for ever with those vaticinations of evil which are indulged in when any measure of progress is introduced into Parliament. We have now brought within the pale of the Constitution numbers who have been hitherto excluded from it, but whose loyalty is no less heartfelt than our own, whose sons man our army and our navy, and whose interest in the happiness and prosperity of the country is as little to be doubted. (Hear, hear.) I look forward, therefore, to the future, with the utmost confidence, and as to her Majesty's Ministers, I will only say that I deem it the highest possible honour to be restored under the leadership of Mr. Gladstone, as it were for a season—at my time of life the period cannot be very long—to a position of active participation in that policy of progress in which I believe we have now fairly embarked. (Cheers.) I have the greatest confidence that the trust which has been reposed in Mr. Gladstone by the English people will be fully responded to, and that the measures which he proposes will be dictated by justice and the welfare of the nation at large. (Cheers.)

Mr. Baron MARTIN remarked that when present one evening in the gallery of the House of Commons, after views similar to those to which he had given expression that evening had been enunciated by the Lord Chancellor as well as by Mr. Bright, in reference to the Irish Church, a gentleman occupying a high position in the House predicted in his hearing that he would live to see the day when Mr. Wood would be Lord Chancellor and Mr. Bright a Cabinet Minister. That prediction, he was happy to find, had been verified. (Cheers.)

Lord HOUGHTON, in responding on behalf of the House of Lords, said that he entertained no doubt that that assembly would always be found ready to make a compromise of their opinions—he might perhaps even say of their convictions, whenever they saw that by doing so the common good of the community at large was to be promoted. (Cheers.)

In giving "The House of Commons" the Chairman coupled with it the name of Mr. Lowe.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who was received with loud cheers, said—

There are two sides to every subject—a negative and a positive. As far as the negative side goes nothing can be easier than the task I have to discharge to-night, because I have the honour to be a member of a Government which has just sprung into existence, and am, or rather hope to be, a member of a House of Commons which has its first fault to commit. (A laugh.) Nothing can be simpler than the panegyric I have to pronounce upon both. This Government has as yet perpetrated no jobs—(laughter)—it has shown no furious party spirit; it has sustained no damaging defeats; it has brought in no abortive measures; it has imposed no unpopular taxation—(a laugh)—it has got us into no foolish wars; it has presented no unseemly spectacles of violence and differences among its members—it has done none of those things which a Government ought to do, and this is no small credit. But that credit is a little diminished by the fact that it is not yet quite formed, and that it is only a week old. (A laugh.) Now then, if I turn from the Government to the House of Commons, I can say much the same thing. Who can state any harm of the present House of Commons? What evil hath it done? No one can lay any bad measure or any foolish speech to its charge. It has exhibited no forgetfulness of its duty to the Crown, to the House of Lords, to its constituents, or to itself. (A laugh.) It is a body which stands before you absolutely pure and blameless. It has done nothing whatever that the cynical mind can find fault with. As my learned friend near me would observe, its record is clear. Perhaps having said this much, I had better sit down; but I have one word more to add on the negative side, because, though I am returning thanks for the House of Commons, by a very peculiar state of circumstances, with which I have nothing to do, I am returning thanks for an assembly of which I am not in reality a member, in the presence of gentlemen who are members in it, and who are therefore much better qualified than I am to reply to the toast. It has been very well said that he who bucketh on his armour should not boast as he who taketh it off; and, gentlemen, I ask myself what kind of an account it is we shall be able to give of ourselves when we have arrived at the last stage instead of standing at the starting-point of our existence; when the shades of evening close over us, instead of being illumined by the rich glow of the dawn; when that night cometh which cometh alike to the wise and foolish, the good and the bad, the zealous and the idle,—what account shall we then render to the country with respect to the great trust which it has placed in our hands? I cannot help believing that the present House of Commons starts, as I am sure the Government starts, with the best intentions of doing that which is for the benefit of the nation. Some of these intentions, in accordance with the usual course of events, may be realised. Many may become futile; some must be abortive; but let us hope that in the mixture of evil and good amid which we live we may, by labour and diligence, be able to work out something for your advantage. As to myself, I shall, of course, do everything that you can possibly wish. (Laughter.) You have only to wait a little time, and in a few days or weeks you will find, I have no doubt, an enormous surplus, a striking reduction in taxation—in fact, a financial millennium begin which will, as a matter of course, go on increasing from year to year until, weary of the task of doing good, I retire amid the blessings of you all, and the gratitude of a contented people. (Cheers and laughter.) For this consummation we are sometimes obliged to wait, and it often arrives in a form which is not very agreeable to the gentleman who happens to fill the office which I have now the honour to hold. I assure you I shall endeavour to do the best I can to remove altogether from the country all the burdens of taxation—(a laugh)—so that she may enjoy the benefit of the best institutions in the world without paying anything for the advantage. (Cheers and laughter.) I have no doubt we can procure fleets without the expense of building and without the innumerable of sailors to man them; while we may have a perfect means of defence without such a clumsy expedient as an army—(cheers and laughter)—and devise some mode of settling legal differences which will prevent men from ruining themselves by having recourse to legal proceedings—(great laughter)—so that in the end we shall all—Whig and Tory—embrace each other, and say, "Brother, brother, we are both in the wrong, and we need not dispute about the matter." (A laugh.) I hope you do not think that I have coloured the picture too highly. (A laugh.) And that you will excuse me if I have spoken with some apparent levity on this subject. The honest truth is that when nothing has been done the only thing that remains is to point out the possibilities of the case, and perhaps it may be found that neither the new Government nor the new Parliament will greatly exceed the task which I have sketched for their performance. (Loud cheers and laughter.)

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The University of London, besides being directly represented in the Upper House by its Chancellor, Earl Granville, and in the Lower by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is indirectly represented by no less than twelve of its graduates. Of these Mr. M. E. Grant Duff, member for Elgin Burghs; Mr. J. Stansfeld, for Halifax; Mr. E. A. Leatham, for Huddersfield; Mr. M. W. F. O'Reilly, for Longford; and Mr. H. S. P. Winterbotham, for Stroud, sat for the same places in the last Parliament. The new members are Mr. E. Jessel, Q.C., for Dover; Mr. Serjeant Simon, for Dewsbury; Mr. W. Fowler, for Cambridge; Mr. R. N. Fowler, or Falmouth; Mr. E. Bowring, for Exeter; Mr. Henry Matthews, Q.C., for Dungarvan; and Mr. O'Connor, for Sligo county. Mr. Julian Goldsmid, who was deprived of his seat for Honiton by the Reform Bill of 1867, made a gallant but unsuccessful attempt in Mid-Surrey. Considering that the University of London numbers among its graduates few men possessed of aristocratic influence, or other means of advancement than their own talents, the number of eminent men to be found in its ranks, both in Parliament and in the learned professions, indicates unmistakably the power bestowed by that broad and yet thorough system of education of which it is the foremost advocate.

THE LATE BRADFORD ELECTION.

On Tuesday evening (says the *Bradford Observer*) a meeting of the friends of Messrs. Forster and Miall was held, at which the gentlemen who have signed the petition against Mr. Ripley made explanations. They said that the evidence which had been collected justified the steps that had been taken. Mr. Forster's position had been carefully considered, and they believed him to be safe. After the explanation the friends of Messrs. Forster and Miall who were present, approved of what had been done, and thanked the four gentlemen who had signed the petition. It would seem that no time is to be lost in trying the petitions against the return of our two members. The Master acting for the Chief Justice in the Court of Common Pleas has already forwarded the petitions to the Mayor as returning officer, and his worship has published them, in accordance with the terms of the Act. Five days will be allowed to test the sufficiency of the recognisances, and if no objection be raised to these, the judge will probably proceed at once to fix the time and place of trial; but fifteen days must elapse between this notification and the sitting of the Court. The trial will therefore be among the earlier transactions of the new year. There is a striking contrast in the length and directness of the two petitions. The charge in one is contained in eleven lines; in the other it is spread over half-a-column. It forcibly reminds us of a witty saying of one of our leading merchants—"That when a man is short of ideas he has plenty of words to express them." Few people will trouble themselves to read such a verbose document as the petition against Mr. Forster, and we therefore append a short summary. It charges that Mr. Forster, by his agents, friends, and persons acting with his consent and knowledge, was guilty of bribery and other corrupt practices, before, at, and since the election. That he did directly and indirectly, by his agents, give and send, and offer, and promise to procure money, and other valuable considerations to induce some persons to vote, and to restrain other persons from voting; and that he did by his agents make use of force and violence, and otherwise interfere with the free exercise of the franchise. The petition states that gross, extensive, and notorious bribery prevailed at the late election, and that Mr. Forster's return was obtained thereby. If there were any ground for such serious charges, we should be very grave about it, but as they are notoriously unfounded we may quietly wait till they are exploded by the learned judge who may come to inquire into this case.

It is expected that Mr. Forster will be re-elected for Bradford within a few days and without opposition. The *Bradford Review* discusses at some length the peculiar position of Mr. Forster at the present time. Our contemporary shows that the petition is no bar to his acceptance of office unless—which is not the case in the present instance—the petitioners should claim the seat. A case in point is given, viz., that of the present Lord Chief Justice, Sir A. Cockburn. He was elected for Southampton, in July, 1852, and on the change of Ministry in December following, he was appointed Attorney-General under the Liberal Government. In the meantime a petition had been presented against his return in July, but Sir Alexander remained in office and was re-elected. The inquiry, however, proceeded, and the committee in the subsequent March declared that he was duly elected. In the same way the inquiry against Mr. Forster's return in November may go on, if the petitioners are determined to carry it forward. This point is settled beyond dispute by the new law of last year, the 18th section of which declares that "the trial of an election petition under this Act shall be proceeded with, notwithstanding the acceptance of the respondent of an office of profit under the Crown." The *Bradford Review* believes that if the charges made against Mr. Forster could be proved, he would be disqualified for sitting for Bradford notwithstanding his re-election.

But we are satisfied (says our contemporary) that no such charge can be proved against him, and we rather suspect that the promoters of the petition are equally satisfied that it is impossible to establish such a charge. Be this as it may, the inquiry will show what grounds they have had for the charge, or whether they are actuated in carrying it forward by a mere feeling of retaliation and malevolence.

Soon after the late election a committee was formed "to give effect to the strongly-expressed public wish" that some means should be adopted for testifying the sympathy and respect of the electors of Bradford for Mr. Miall, the defeated candidate, and a committee was formed, with Mr. Alderman Law, the ex-mayor, as treasurer, to receive subscriptions for a testimonial. The following correspondence on the subject has been published in the *Bradford Observer*—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRADFORD OBSERVER.

Bradford, Dec. 9, 1868.

Sir,—Will you be good enough to insert the enclosed letter in your issue of to-morrow, and give me room first to explain why it appears so long after the date it bears? I had to write twice to Mr. Miall before getting his consent to publish it, and my own absence from home caused a delay of four days in answering one of Mr. Miall's letters.

The transparent sincerity of the communication must find its way to the heart of every man and woman in Bradford who is capable of a generous sentiment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES LAW.

Welland House, Forest-hill, S.E., Nov. 27, 1868.

My Dear Mr. Law,—A paragraph in yesterday's *Bradford Observer*, received last night, gratifying as it could not fail to be as an indication of kindness towards

me, has nevertheless awakened serious concern in my mind. It is stated to be the intention of my friends at Bradford to raise "a substantial money testimonial" as an expression of the favour with which they regard my conduct in the late contest, and that you have consented to act as treasurer. I hope I shall not be deemed insensible to such spontaneous evidence of the good-will of my supporters, but I find it impossible to accept any pledge of it in a pecuniary shape. I am not able to give my reasons seriatim in this note, but they are final. I cannot consent to dim in any way the lustre of the moral position which my friends have helped me to achieve.

If, however, my Bradford friends have set their minds upon presenting me with some lasting memorial of their approbation of my course, I suggest that it should take the shape of a small library of historical and political works, well selected, uniformly bound, and constituting altogether a present worthy of them to bestow, and of me to receive. Such a testimonial I could accept with pride and gratitude.

Forgive me for the liberty I have taken—an unbecoming one, it may be—but I thought the suggestion might open the easiest way of escape from a difficulty I could never surmount—namely, the termination of one of the grandest passages of my life in a money investment.

I am, my dear Mr. Law, yours very faithfully,

EDWARD MIALL.

James Law, Esq.

Foreign and Colonial.

SPAIN.

The outbreak in Cadiz appears to have been serious. There had been a deal of fighting between the Government troops and the insurgents, the latter of whom raised the standard of revolt in the ultra-Republican interest. On Saturday General Caballero de Roda addressed a proclamation to the people of Cadiz, urging them to lay down their arms, and promising if they did that their lives shall be spared. The proclamation at once produced an effect upon the insurgents, and on Monday the general at the head of the army of Andalusia entered the town, and the insurgents laid down their arms and surrendered at discretion.

The surrender of Cadiz has not altered in the least the manœuvres of the reactionary party. It is alleged that the members of the clergy of Madrid are distributing considerable sums of money in order to incite disturbances. Fearing a conflict, the inhabitants continue to leave Madrid in large numbers. Extreme distress prevails among the poor, and commerce is greatly paralysed. The Governor of Tarragona has telegraphed to the Provisional Government that great agitation is being fomented by the Carlists in the environs of Montblanch. An association, with branches throughout Spain, has been organised here under the presidency of the Marquis Viluna, ostensibly with the object of protecting the unity of Catholicism, but really, it is said, to propagate Absolutist principles, and pave the way for a rising in favour of Don Carlos. An outbreak is apprehended at Malaga, and large amounts of money are believed to have been placed in the hands of the clergy in different parts wherewith to foment disturbances. In Estremadura placards have been posted up, threatening to assassinate all rich citizens who shall take part in the elections to the Cortes. Many rich families, greatly alarmed by the reports of insurrections, have hastened to leave Spain.

The municipal authorities at Madrid have carried out their determination of reducing the wages of the workmen employed at the national workshops. A number of the provisional municipalities, the national volunteers, and members of the Liberal party, have given in their adhesion to the Government in the present juncture of affairs, offering to support it in putting down the authors of the present disorders. The safety of the capital and the maintenance of order have been entrusted exclusively to the national volunteers.

GERMANY.

Last Wednesday Count Bismarck made his first appearance in the Prussian Chamber after his long illness, and took an active part in the debates. The chief subject of discussion was the budget of the Foreign Office, and the Count produced great satisfaction by announcing that he had every reason to believe, from the confidential communications he had received from the other North German States, that he would be able next year to amalgamate the Prussian Foreign Office with that of the North German Bund. The most interesting incident of the debate was a short conversation between Count Bismarck and some of the deputies about the present policy of Count Beust. Alluding to the charge for the Prussian embassy at Dresden, Herr Wolfel said that it would be necessary for Prussia to keep a representative in that town so long as Austria had one there. He assured the House he had good authority for saying that Count Beust was still as great an enemy of Prussia as ever; that the chief object of his policy was to restore the predominance of Austria in Germany by sowing dissensions among the members of the North German Bund, and that the Austrian ambassador at Dresden was one of the instruments of that policy. Herr Virchow then observed that the best way of preventing dissensions in North Germany would be for Prussia to pursue as liberal a policy as Count Beust had done in Austria. The Prussian embassy at Dresden would then be no longer necessary. To this Count Bismarck replied that he supposed Herr Virchow did not wish him to imitate Austria so far as to have an army of 800,000 men. As for the liberal policy recommended, he would only remark that "Liberal Governments are like ladies; the youngest please the most. (Great laughter.) Austria, after a long period of reaction, now gets credit for a liberalism which for twenty

years in its most important feature, and for fifty in many others, has already belonged among us to the region of accomplished facts." These remarks were received very good-naturedly by the House, though one or two members rose to express their dissent from Count Bismarck's conclusions.

AUSTRIA.

The Hungarian Diet was closed on the 9th. The Speech from the Throne enumerates the fortunate results which have attended the labours of the Diet, and which, it says, are due to the sincere union existing between the King and the nation. It adds:—

The Diet has put an end to the uncertainty hitherto prevailing. Both halves of the empire are independent of each other as regards the conduct of their own affairs, and they exercise an equal constitutional influence over the affairs which are common to both. The monarchy has sought and found a rallying point within itself, and now marches onward with renewed strength in a path which will conduce to the peace and welfare of the country, and to the preservation of the position which it is called upon to take up among European nations. The King nourishes the conviction that the new constitutional bases which have already effected so much good, and so greatly strengthened the monarchy, will be durable and beneficial to the interests of the country.

The speech was received with great enthusiasm. The members of both Houses separated with cheers for the King, the Queen, the Ministers, M. Deak, and the Fatherland.

Generals Klapka, Perczel, and Velter, have been reinstated in their military ranks as generals in the Hungarian army.

TURKEY AND GREECE.

It is stated in a Vienna despatch that in compliance with the demands contained in the Turkish ultimatum, the Greek Government will disband the volunteer corps, forbid Greek officers and officials to take part in the Cretan insurrection, and permit the return of the families of the insurgents to Crete. Greece refuses to comply with the other demands of the ultimatum, and the whole reply is said to be couched in such offensive terms that the Turkish Minister was preparing to leave. The Paris *Patris*, however, stated that the good understanding between the Powers on the subject of the dispute between Turkey and Greece continues undiminished, and that no incident has occurred which could raise doubt as to the success of the diplomatic steps that are being taken. The delay granted by the Porte expires to-morrow.

AMERICA.

In his Presidential Message, delivered on the 8th, Mr. Johnson again calls the attention of Congress to the continued disorganisation of the country, under the various laws on the subject of reconstruction, which, after three years' trial, had failed, proved pernicious in their results, and required the keeping up of a large military force, which was principally used in enforcing these unnecessary and unconstitutional laws. Their commerce had diminished and their industrial interests were languishing, and only wise legislation and retrenchment would remedy these evils.

The army is now reduced to 43,000 men of all arms, and the Secretary of the War Department believes a further reduction of the infantry practicable. The naval force is now reduced to 206 vessels, mounting 7,040 guns.

Mr. Johnson cordially approves the policy of Congress towards the Indians. With regard to foreign countries, he says:—

Our foreign relations are generally satisfactory. No particular relations concerning the colonial trade and the fisheries can be accomplished until Congress expresses its judgment on the principles involved. Other questions, however, are open for adjustment between the United States and Great Britain. These relate to the rights of naturalised citizen, the title to the island of San Juan, and the claims of citizen subjects of both countries arising out of the late war. The negotiations upon these subjects are pending, and I am not without hope of being able to lay before the Senate during the present session protocols calculated to bring to an end these justly excited and long-existing controversies.

President Johnson recommends an amendment to the Constitution which would provide for the election of the President and Senators by the people direct, and also the limitation of the terms of office of the Federal judges.

The Senate, upon receiving the President's message, refused to hear it read, and adjourned.

General Grant, in his annual report transmitting the reports of the district department commanders, endorses General Sherman's recommendation that the management of Indian affairs should be transferred to the War Department. General Grant considers a further reduction of the army inexpedient in view of the Indian difficulties, troops being still needed in the Southern States.

On Monday the House of Representatives passed, by 154 votes against six, a resolution declaring all forms of repudiation of the national indebtedness odious to the American people, whose representatives will not offer to the national creditors a less amount than the Government has contracted to pay.

CHINA.

The *Morning Post* learns that the British Minister at Peking has informed the Chinese authorities that he has placed the Yang-chow missionary difficulty in the hands of the Admiral on the China station, Sir Henry Keppel. It is said that Sir Rutherford Alcock has been forced to take those extreme measures by the unwillingness or the inability of the

Central Government at Pekin to enforce its will on the provincial authorities.

A scandalous native proclamation has been published against the missionaries at Shanghai. This proclamation has been officially condemned by the local mandarin.

A ferocious assault has been made upon two British subjects by a mob of 500 Chinese at Formosa. The local mandarin refused to aid them.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Twenty-six persons were killed at Fritziar, near Cologne, last week, by the falling of the tower of a church during a heavy gale of wind.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES have concluded their visit to Copenhagen, and have gone to Stockholm on a visit to the King of Sweden.

Advices from Calcutta, dated Nov. 18, state that Lord Mayo reached Calcutta on that day. The famine had begun in Rajapootna, and large numbers of people were leaving the stricken districts.

THE BULGARIAN CHURCH.—The Greek Patriarchate has refused the Bulgarian demand for a self-governed Bulgarian Church, as contrary to ecclesiastical laws, unless sanctioned by a special orthodox council, to be convened for the discussion of that question.

LORD NAPIER has visited the missionary stations in Tinnevely. At Nagercoil the missionaries presented his lordship with an address, thanking him for the countenance extended to the native Christian community. His lordship returned a suitable reply.

QUEEN ISABELLA has purchased for 1,800,000fr. Count Basilewski's splendid mansion on the Boulevard du Roi de Rome, Paris, near the residence of M. Emile de Girardin. Her Majesty has paid a forfeit of 60,000fr. to get rid of the two houses which were taken for her in the Champs Elysees.

SIR JOHN YOUNG, the new Governor-General of Canada, arrived at Ottawa on the 27th ult., and was received with much enthusiasm, about three thousand persons being present at the railway-station to welcome him. He was sworn in on the 1st inst., and the ceremony is said to have been of a very imposing character.

MISS CARPENTER has received a very hearty welcome in Bombay, and having decided upon staying in that city, the Government has gladly accepted an offer she has made of her services in connection with the establishment of a female normal school there. The native press has also welcomed her very warmly.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.—The *New York Times* says that the Pacific Railway will be completed by next July, and that there will then be one continuous railway from New York to San Francisco—the longest line in the world. Travellers will be able to leave London or Liverpool, and reach Yokohama or Shanghai at least fifteen days earlier than by any other route.

M. BERRYER'S LAST LETTER.—The last letter written by M. Berryer was addressed to the Count de Chambord, and is as follows:—"To the Count of Chambord, O Monseigneur! O my King! They tell me that I approach my last hour. I die with the sorrow of not having witnessed the triumph of your hereditary rights, consecrating the establishment and development of the liberties of which our country has need. I offer these prayers to heaven for your Majesty, her Majesty the Queen, and for our beloved country. In order that they may be less unworthy of acceptance, I quit this life armed with all the consolations of our holy religion. Adieu, sire! May God protect you, and save France!—Your devoted and faithful BERRYER."

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.—The Washington correspondent of the *New York Times* writes to that journal:—"The draft of the basis of a treaty for the settlement of the Alabama claims, agreed upon between Lord Stanley and Minister Johnson, has been received at the State Department. The first article provides for the settlement of all claims which have arisen between the two Governments since the Convention of 1853; and the second provides expressly for the settlement of what are known as the Alabama claims, and proposes the formation of a joint commission, each Government to appoint two members, who shall sit in Washington and determine the character, legality, and amount of the claims. Any question which is not decided unanimously by the commission is to be submitted to an arbitrator to be agreed upon by the two Governments. This is a brief outline of the proposition as submitted. There is considerable surprise expressed here that the alleged protocol should, by its first article, give England an opportunity to compel the settlement of all the counter claims she chooses to prefer as growing out of the war. This conceded, and 150,000,000fr. of Alabama claims will be more than counterbalanced by the claims of British subjects for alleged damage to and seizure of neutral property by our army and navy. Should this provision prove to be as broad as indicated, the chances for the ratification of the treaty by the Senate are very small, for Congress will never accord to a neutral whose sympathies were probably against us, such a mode of redress, while our own citizens at the South, be they ever so loyal, are debarred by law from prosecuting like claims against the Government in their own courts."

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, N.—Number of patients for the week ending December 12, 1,472, of which 496 were new cases. The first of a series of ten Thursday evening concerts has been given at the Concert Hall, Bedford-square, W.C. The proceeds are to be applied to the furnishing of the new hospital building, with room for fifty free beds. Several eminent artists have kindly promised their services for this useful charity.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—It appears that Saturday, the 26th inst., the day after Christmas Day, will, with very few exceptions, be kept as a general holiday, and that many of the great city warehousing firms intend to remain closed on the Monday also. In various retail trades the Monday will likewise be kept as a holiday, although among these houses the Saturday will be the day most generally observed both in London and the provinces.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM MR. CARLYLE.—Mr. Carlyle was asked to deliver a valedictory address to the students at the Edinburgh University on ceasing to be rector. He declined, in the following characteristic letter:—

Chelsea, December 6, 1868.

Dear Sir,—I much regret that a valedictory speech from me, in present circumstances, is a thing I must not think of. Be pleased to advise the young gentlemen who were so friendly towards me, that I have already sent them, in silence, but with emotions deep enough, perhaps too deep, my loving Farewell, and that ingratitude or want of regard is by no means among the causes that keep me absent. With a fine youthful enthusiasm, beautiful to look upon, they bestowed on me that bit of honour, loyally all they had; and it has now, for reasons one and another, become touchingly memorable to me,—touchingly, and even grandly and tragically;—never to be forgotten for the remainder of my life. Bid them, in my name, if they still love me, fight the good fight, and quit themselves like men, in the warfare to which they are as if conscript and consecrated, and which lies ahead. Tell them to consult the eternal oracles (not yet inaudible, nor ever to become so, when worthily inquired of); and to disregard, nearly altogether, in comparison, the temporary noises, menaces, and deliriums. May they love wisdom, as wisdom, if she is to yield her treasures, must be loved piously, valiantly, humbly, beyond life itself or the prizes of life, with all one's heart and all one's soul—in that case (I will say again), and not in any other case, it shall be well with them. Adieu, my young friends, a long adieu.

Yours with great sincerity,

(Signed) T. CARLYLE.

A. Robinson, Esq.

MR. BRIGHT AT COURT.

(From the *Newcastle Chronicle*.)

In certain circles in London conversation for the last few days has been all about Mr. Bright's appearance at court, which was attended by incidents of a very interesting character. Some years ago Lord Derby volunteered a remark, considered at the time highly gratuitous and offensive, to the effect that Mr. Bright could not be "sent for" by the Queen, as he would be a distasteful person at court. A year or two afterwards Mr. Bright resented this in his own effective way, in a speech he made at Birmingham, in which he reminded Lord Derby that there were persons who stood upon the steps of the throne without being able to add anything to the security of it by increasing the affection of the people for it, and whose presence so near to it was not a national advantage. We understand on Mr. Gladstone mentioning to her Majesty that he intended, with her permission, to offer a seat in the Cabinet to the hon. member for Birmingham, the Queen was pleased to say it would afford her the greatest satisfaction if Mr. Bright should consent to serve the Crown—that she had read his speeches with great pleasure, and that she was under the greatest obligation to him for the many kind words he had spoken of her, especially for a speech he made about two years ago in a great meeting in St. James's Hall. When Mr. Bright went to Windsor to take the oaths of office, her Majesty showed her delicate consideration for the great commoner in a very marked way. She sent Mr. Helps, the Clerk to the Privy Council, to assure Mr. Bright if it was more agreeable to his feelings to omit the ceremony of kneeling or kissing hands, he was quite at liberty to do so. Mr. Bright availed himself of this considerate permission, and was very kindly and cordially received by her Majesty, who took occasion in the most marked manner to express her gratification at meeting him. It was afterwards intimated to Mr. Bright that her Royal Highness the Princess Royal of Prussia had expressed a desire that Mr. Bright should be presented to her. This was done, and the Princess heartily assured Mr. Bright that she greatly desired to be acquainted with him—that she herself and all the members of the royal family were greatly indebted to him for the way in which he had spoken of their mother. She herself, she said, had read all his speeches, and she was very pleased to see him. Mr. Bright replied in very graceful terms, and said if her Royal Highness would permit him he would tell her what the late Mr. Buchanan, the American Minister, when last in London, said of her to him, "that wherever her Royal Highness went she shed sunshine over all her path." Mr. Bright was very much struck with the graceful, animated manners and genial greeting he had the honour to receive from her Royal Highness, and the young ladies of the Court tell with curious interest of the meeting between her Royal Highness and the great Quaker courtier. Mr. Bright has already become as famous in royal circles as his great predecessor, William Penn. As a great deal has been said and written about the Queen's personal feelings, and as some of Mr. Gladstone's own intimate supporters have believed till lately that Mr. Disraeli had an undue influence over her, it is most satisfactory to hear, as we have on the very best authority, that her Majesty's reception of her new Prime Minister was so gracious, so kind, even so "affectionate" was the word used, as to overwhelm him with feelings of the warmest gratitude. Nothing could have more lightened his recent toils, or cheered him more thoroughly in the happily few difficulties he has to contend with.

Postscript.

Wednesday, December 16, 1868.

TURKEY AND GREECE.

According to a telegram from Athens, which seems to have been delayed, and is dated Dec. 12, the Hellenic Government have rejected the terms of the ultimatum of the Porte. A frigate has been despatched to Constantinople to fetch the Greek Minister. Enthusiastic demonstrations have taken place before the residences of the English, American, Prussian, and Russian Ambassadors.

The *Morning Star* states that a telegram has been received in town from Corfu announcing that the Turkish Ambassador has withdrawn from Athens, and the telegram adds that a declaration of war is, it is believed, about to be declared. The excitement and enthusiasm in Corfu were very great.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, yesterday, which had not met since Friday, the Lord Chancellor, after the Commons had been duly summoned, read the Royal Speech, given in another column. The Lord Chancellor, who was introduced by Lord Romilly and Lord Chelmsford, took the oath and his seat as Lord Hatherley; and then their lordships adjourned till the 11th of February.

Owing to the peculiar circumstances of the present moment, the moving of the writs in the House of Commons was not so merely a matter of form as is usually the case; and in order to avoid opposition, Mr. Ayrton, to whom the task had been entrusted, found it necessary to explain that he should move the writs only in cases where the time for petitioning had elapsed, and where no petition claiming the seat had been presented. Several writs were moved and ordered without opposition. The mention of Mr. Gladstone's name was received with cheers from the Ministerial side of the House, while when Mr. Ayrton read out the words "the Right Honourable John Bright" a slight titter ran along the Conservative benches. When the writ for London was moved, Mr. Goldney raised a slight difficulty by objecting that a petition had been presented against the return of Mr. Goschen, and that the House had no official information as to whether it did or did not claim the seat. At the same time he admitted that he was personally aware that no such claim was made. Sir R. Palmer, who was greeted with cordial cheers, pointed out that all the House required was information from one of its members, and that after the statement which Mr. Ayrton had made, the mere fact of his moving this writ amounted to a declaration on his part that the petition against Mr. Goschen's return did not claim the seat. Mr. T. Collins was for issuing the writs, whether the seat was claimed or not; and after Mr. Ayrton had, in the most perfectly official manner, deprecated further discussion, the motion was agreed to, and no further question arose upon the issuing of the writs. A host of notices were given for the early days of February, and after a few members had taken the oath, the House adjourned till Tuesday, the 29th inst., when the remaining writs will be moved.

The first Cabinet Council since the formation of Mr. Gladstone's Government was held yesterday afternoon. The whole of the Ministers were present.

CHURCH REVENUES.—Two boards of guardians—Kilkenny and Clonmel (says an Irish paper) have been discussing the propriety of petitioning Parliament to allocate the Irish Church revenues to the support of the poor. Kilkenny agreed. Clonmel is to consider the matter on a future occasion.

THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION INQUIRIES.—These inquiries will commence early in January next. In the meantime it is anticipated that another of the present judges on the bench will be appointed to try election petitions, power for which is given under the Bribery Act of last session. It is also understood that the petitions against the boroughs will be first proceeded with.

CHURCH-RATES.—An application was made to the Chancellor of the Bishop of London (Sir Travers Twiss), on Monday, in the Mortlake Church-rate case, to proceed to hearing. It was a suit, "Wigan and Ommaney v. Nelson," to enforce payment of a church-rate. Mr. Crosse, proctor for the defendant, said he had hoped, as the law had been altered since the suit was commenced, and that there was now no compulsory payment, that the proceeding would be allowed to drop. Mr. Moore, proctor for the churchwardens of Mortlake, the plaintiffs in the action, asked the Chancellor to order the defendant to plead, if he intended, within a fortnight, and Sir Travers Twiss granted the application.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

There was again a short supply of English wheat on sale here to-day, the demand for which ruled quiet, at Monday's advance in the quotations. In foreign wheat a limited business was passing, at the recent improvement. Barley was steady in value and demand for both malting and grinding qualities. The malt trade was very quiet, but without alteration as to prices. The supply of oats was moderately extensive, and a fair business was concluded, on former terms. Beans and peas were a slow sale, at late rates.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	430	220	1,180	80	1,970
Irish	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign	4,380	14,240	—	16,750	300 sks.
					4,010 bbls.
					Mais, 2,520 qrs.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

“J. E.”—It seems hardly desirable further to discuss the question. Mr. Morley's letter and the reply of the Secretary of the Liberation Society speak for themselves.

“A Reader of the Nonconformist.”—Compulsory Church-rates ceased on the 31st of July, 1868, and no rate laid subsequent to that date can be legally enforced, except such as are intended to pay the interest of money borrowed for Church-rate purposes prior to the time referred to.

* * Our Dublin letter is at the last moment unavoidably crowded out.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1868.

SUMMARY.

THE new Ministry is now complete. Taken as a whole, it is one of singular administrative strength. Although the Cabinet may include less of the Radical element than might have been expected, it enters upon its responsibilities with a definite policy previously marked out. The minds of its members as to the main features of the Ministerial programme are already made up. There is evident method in the distribution of the subordinate appointments, and the Treasury bench of the House of Commons will be rich not only in debating capacity, but in official aptitude. However it may be with the army, the east of the appointments connected with the Admiralty—from Mr. Childers, the First Lord, down to Mr. Baxter, who we are glad to see has been appointed the Secretary—denotes a resolution to grapple with the patent evils of naval administration. In like manner the division of the duties of the Treasury by the appointment of Mr. Stansfeld as a Third “Lord,” with two Joint Secretaries, assures a vigilant control of that department, and will, no doubt, put a real check on the growth of the Civil Service estimates. It is the departments—the permanent officials—who, influenced of course by hungry placemen, are the great enemies of retrenchment. The economical wave, whether flowing from Westminster or Downing-street, has vainly for years broken over this granite rock of obstruction. Two of these departments, it seems to us, Mr. Gladstone, through his zealous lieutenants, Mr. Childers and Mr. Stansfeld, is about to get under control, and we may be sure that the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, with his strong hatred of jobbery and waste, will heartily co-operate in the good work.

The Premier has secured in Earl Spencer a suitable Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and the presence of Mr. Chichester Fortescue in the Cabinet, as well as in the House of Commons, gives due weight to the claims of the sister island which will be sustained in the Upper House by Lord Dufferin, who being appointed to a sinecure office can devote his energies to the special class of questions with which he is most conversant. In the list of subordinate appointments are included Mr. Layard, Mr. Glyn, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, and Mr. Monsell, who have had some experience of official life; and Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Otway, Mr. Grant Duff, Mr. Lefevre, Sir C. O'Loughlin, and Mr. Arthur Peel, who bring new blood into the Administration, and have yet to win their laurels. Should a Minister of Education be created, Mr. W. E. Forster, over whom hangs a “bogus” petition, will probably

be advanced from his present post to a more responsible sphere with a seat in the Cabinet. Thus Mr. Gladstone's Ministerial arrangements have regard to future exigencies as well as the present needs of the country.

The new Parliament met for the first time last Thursday under circumstances almost unique in our history. The Opposition was in full force in the House of Commons, but all the responsible advisers of the Crown were excluded by reason of their recent acceptance of office. Of course, nothing but business of a formal character was transacted, but it was business that must be got through. First, a new Speaker was chosen, and Mr. Denison was re-elected as a matter of course, being proposed by Sir G. Grey and Mr. Walpole, and duly approved by the five peers who, decked out in an *outré* costume, represent the Crown on such occasions. The Speaker, having obtained, according to the customary formula, the confirmation of the prescriptive rights of the Commons, set to work swearing in members, with such expedition that some five hundred had up to Monday night received the necessary imprimatur. One of the oddest of messages from her Majesty, owing to the anomalous situation, was received yesterday, pointing out that “several vacancies have occurred owing to the acceptance of office from the Crown by members of that House,” and recommending the issue of writs. Some of the writs were duly ordered, and Parliament stands adjourned to the 29th, when the rest will be issued, and most of her Majesty's Ministers be in a position to face Parliament. The high comedy which has been played at Westminster during the week will then come to an end, but not till February will Parliament (to use the royal language) “proceed to the consideration of such matters as will then be laid before it.”

Probably before the lapse of another week all the Cabinet Ministers whose seats are void will have been re-elected. The threat of opposing the return of the Prime Minister for Greenwich seems to have been abandoned, and his new constituents, who have all through acted in a patriotic spirit, propose to return him free of expense. Mr. Goschen—the minority clause being in abeyance—will be re-elected for the City; Mr. Bright will, of course, walk over the course at Birmingham; and nothing is heard of any opposition to Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Childers, Mr. Layard, Mr. Stansfeld, Mr. Forster, Lord J. Hay, Sir R. Collier, and Sir J. Coleridge, and in the case of Captain Vivian, one of the Lords of the Treasury, who was returned for Truro, a threatened contest has been abandoned. There seems every prospect that the constituencies will unanimously ratify the choice of the new Ministers of the Crown.

The judges appointed by the Court of Common Pleas to deal with election petitions will have an arduous task. Apart from the county and Irish seats, they will have to investigate the returns for fifty-five borough constituencies represented by seventy-two members, divided in the proportion of thirty-four Liberals to thirty-eight Conservatives. The election of the three Liberal members for London is disputed on the ground of undue influence, personation, and unqualified votes, and the right of Mr. W. H. Smith to sit for Westminster is also challenged. Some of the petitions have manifestly been got up in retaliation; others, such as those from Norwich, Coventry, Ashton, Staleybridge, Blackburn, Preston, and York, will probably lead to remarkable disclosures, if not to fresh elections. The case of Bradford stands alone. The petition against Mr. Ripley was immediately followed by one against his colleague, Mr. Forster, whose seat has already lapsed, and who will be no doubt re-elected ere the investigation is entered upon. Though the course taken by the friends of Mr. Ripley has not prevented Mr. Forster from accepting office, both petitions will be gone into, and the world will thus learn something of the moral courage of the Vice-President of the Council and his friends in courting an inquiry attended with no little inconvenience. Altogether, we are promised some striking revelations before the judges in the several boroughs where they will pursue their inquiries, which may in the end considerably alter the complexion of the House of Commons, and will certainly test the efficiency of the new Bribery at Elections Act.

The meddling of the Great Powers between the Porte and the Hellenic Government, has simply complicated the dispute between them. The Greek Cabinet, tacitly supported it is thought by one or more of the Powers, has rejected the terms of the Turkish ultimatum, and ostentatiously sent a vessel to Constantinople to fetch away its ambassador. The Sultan's Minister has also left Athens. There is some talk of an outbreak of hostilities, but the

Greeks are bankrupt in character and nearly bankrupt in purse, and probably their vapouring will end in a change of Ministry, and in the substantial acceptance of the Turkish demand that Greece shall cease to prosecute covert hostilities in Crete against the authority of the Porte.

A letter in this morning's *Times* from Shanghai gives some further details in relation to the missionary case in China, upon which we have elsewhere commented. It seems that the Viceroy has given way on the point of degrading the Prefect and Magistrate of Yang-chow, both of whom have been removed from office. He is also willing to pay for the actual value of property destroyed by the rioters, and for the cost of medical attendance on the missionary who was injured; but he declines to admit the term “compensation” in the sense in which we employ it; he will give no more than will actually reimburse the sufferers. He consents to issue a proclamation setting forth the right of missionaries to reside and teach in the interior; refuses to carve on stone, as Her Britannic Majesty's Consul demanded, a brief history of the present riot and of the punishment inflicted; but especially he declines to punish the literati, who are all retired officials, and are believed to be the instigators of the late outrage. The writer thinks that on the appearance of Mr. Medhurst with the ships of war at Nankin, either the Viceroy will yield, or that he will resign, and be succeeded by a Governor-General more disposed to accede to the peremptory demands of the British Minister.

THE GLADSTONE ADMINISTRATION.

THE Gladstone Administration is now complete. It would be premature, perhaps, to affirm of it that it commands the confidence of the country, and incorrect, that it answers in all respects to the expectations which the public had entertained of what it should be. It is characterised by an excess of precisely that element which it was generally assumed the household franchise would reduce to insignificance. The change brought about by the Reform Acts, however, has not neutralised the force, nor greatly disturbed the applicability of the sentence, “Ye have laboured, and other men have entered into your labours.” Running the eye down the list of the principal officers of State, one is somewhat struck at the number of names which can with difficulty be associated with the preparatory work of which the new political era is the result, and with the subordinate rank assigned, with an exception or two, to those which can. There are men, in England as well as elsewhere, born to appropriate the ripe fruit of others' toil. That Mr. Gladstone has done the best he could with the materials at his disposal we have not a shadow of a doubt—but the Administration which he has built up with so much care thrusts upon our notice the conclusion that we have not yet passed beyond the range of that powerful influence which oligarchical claims can bring to bear on the formation of a Government.

Perhaps it is best as it is. The transition from the old state of things to the new may be all the safer for being gradual. It has to be borne in mind, moreover, that the character and policy of an Administration are determined far rather by the qualities of its two or three predominant members than by the antecedents of the passive majority of them. The neutral tinting may appear overpoweringly strong until it is relieved by a touch or two of vivid colour. A Cabinet which may boast of Mr. Gladstone as its head, and of Mr. Bright, Mr. Lowe, and the Duke of Argyll as members, is not likely to be overborne by any political inertness on the part of its remaining officers. It is the spirit, not the body, which originates and sustains movement. The vital force of the new Ministry will satisfy every reasonable demand, even if the limbs are less lissome than could have been wished. So long as actual antagonism has been avoided in its composition—of which fact we make no doubt—we are not disposed to criticise harshly the combination with it of a larger amount of steady ingredients than we should have thought indispensable. At all events, it may serve to satisfy the timid that the Premier is not intent on revolutionary designs. That he is bold cannot be denied—but it is clear that he knows how to associate caution with courage. He has put a veil over his own extraordinary popularity and power, and has thereby, we think, given fresh evidence of his sagacity as a statesman. His moderation in the selection of his Cabinet may possibly be regarded as the wisest expression he could give of his consciousness of strength.

Yet, on the whole, how immense an advance of public opinion is indicated by the Gladstone

Ministry. The Premier himself must be judged of, not by the standard of his past career, but in the light of his recent acts and utterances. He represents an Irish policy which two years ago would have been pooh-poohed as impracticable by not a few of our foremost Liberals. He has taken office to carry it into effect, and has chosen his colleagues with immediate reference to it. Some of those colleagues, as we have already remarked, seem indebted to their family connections more than to their past efforts or their personal ability for the position to which they have been promoted—but not one of them would have been elevated to office had he objected to sit in the same Cabinet with Mr. Bright. The right hon. member for Birmingham has not receded—at least, if we may judge from his latest speeches—from the political principles of his most vigorous manhood. Nevertheless, he had his choice of offices in the new Government, and will doubtless exercise a potent influence in guiding its policy. This Cabinet, therefore, albeit it includes several men of former Cabinets, must differ widely in spirit and purpose from any that has preceded it. It may not embody Mr. Bright's *beau idéal*—may not, in all respects, come up to his mark—but at least it contains him as a leading member, and the change which has made this not merely possible but necessary is not a change in him but in those with whom he is associated.

Nor ought we to forget that in regard to the main questions waiting practical settlement, the present Administration represents a majority of more than a hundred votes in a new House of Commons. It holds a commission, we may say, from the people of the United Kingdom. It has not to shape, but to carry into effect, a policy already determined on. Its general leanings and sympathies are of less importance than its capacity to execute the task specially intrusted to it. That work—the putting an end to all connection of State authority and State provision in regard to religious communities in Ireland, it is thoroughly qualified, both by earnestness of purpose and by statesmanlike ability to accomplish—not the less deftly, it may be, nor the less speedily, for its strong leaven of aristocratic influence. The House of Lords will think seriously and repeatedly before it rejects the measure of such a Government, with such a force of public opinion behind it. Then, as to retrenchment of expenditure, the Gladstone Administration offers the strongest guarantee to the nation. The Premier, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President of the Board of Trade, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Financial Secretaries, are one and all pledged by their training, their habits and their professions, to keep a vigilant supervision over the spending services, and to check the waste of public money.

So far, then, the new Ministry may be held entitled to the confidence of the country, and will, no doubt, soon win it, even if it do not already possess it. So far, also, there is every reason to think, it is perfectly harmonious. We might, perhaps, extend the area which is covered by its unity, by adding to it the question of abolishing religious tests in the two Universities, upon which, it is believed, there is little difference of opinion in the Cabinet, as there is not much on the general tenour of our Foreign policy. This is enough for the present—and will take us very well as far as we can see with any distinctness. There is sufficient weight and breadth and solidity for the arduous work of the coming Session. Beyond that we need not attempt to peer, for we shall do so to no satisfactory end. For ourselves, we are quite content. The Gladstone Administration does not in all respects meet our anticipations—but we cannot withhold from it our heartiest confidence. It concentrates within itself immense political power, and will use that power, we fully trust, for the furtherance of the best interests of the country.

THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT.

THOUGH the world is, to a great extent, governed by prejudices and traditions, the time sooner or later comes when truth and justice are triumphant. Three years ago it appeared improbable that the governing families of this country would have contemplated the admission of Mr. Bright to a seat in the Cabinet with other than feelings of disquietude, if not of terror. Whigs as well as Tories regarded, or affected to regard, the member for Birmingham as the embodiment of ultra-Radicalism; as the one distinguished member of the Legislature who was to be labelled dangerous, whose speeches, however powerful and eloquent, were fair game for the leaders of party, neophyte politicians, and newspaper scribes; and whose plans, whether for renovating the constitution, pacifying Irish discontent, or promoting cordial relations with

America, were to be discussed not on their merits, but in relation to the personal position of the man who propounded them. No sooner did Mr. Bright open his mouth, whether on the floor of Parliament or on the platform, than he was pursued by a pack of partisans of the press and carping critics, and relegated by them to the limbo of impracticable schemers and dangerous visionaries.

The lapse of a few short years has brought its changes and revenges—the most remarkable of which, perhaps, is the new position of John Bright. Though his popularity with the great mass of the people has been scarcely augmented, to the Upper Ten he has become a statesman worthy of deference and homage. To suit the exigencies of party, and justify their retention of office, the Tories one day took a “leap in the dark,” and reappeared under the banner of household suffrage. Mr. Bright found himself distanced in the political race. The mouths of his implacable foes were shut. They had entered the arena armed with his own weapons, and they snatched the victory for which he had toiled. It was inevitable that the fashionable views relative to the great tribune of the people should become altered. The storm of obloquy and prejudice was cleared away by atmospheric changes brought about by Mr. Disraeli's educational process, and forthwith Mr. Bright stood out to view in a new light. The agitator was transformed into the pioneer of progress, and the revolutionist wore the sober garb of the sagacious statesman. Unchanged himself, the polite world had come up to his standard, and recognised in him one of the inevitable rulers of the future. Tory prints confessed that John Bright had earned the right to high office, and country squires were fain to admit that their arch enemy was “master of the situation.” That his claims should be admitted is not so surprising as that they should be urged by his political foes without conjuring up phantoms of evil omen, and fears of an impending revolution.

An ambitious statesman and party man might well have been satisfied with the completeness of his triumph and the fruition of his hopes. But this has been the hour of Mr. Bright's sorest trial. The time had come when the maintenance of his position of independence conflicted with allegiance to the Liberal party. Popularity has its responsibilities as well as its victories. A broad Liberal Cabinet without John Bright would have been an anomaly. Greatness, according to the orthodox ideas of the political world, was thrust upon him, much against his will. “I have joined the new Administration,” Mr. Bright says, “with extreme reluctance, but the pressure put upon me was more than I could withstand. I hope I have done what it seemed finally my duty to do.” No one now will be disposed to doubt, however little the conventional politician can understand, the sincerity of his *nolo episcopari*. The call of his leader and the popular suffrage have obliged him to forego inclination for duty, and John Bright has become a Cabinet Minister and a “right honourable.”

We have the best assurance in Mr. Bright's past career that the same paramount sense of loyalty to his party and principles will govern him in his new and somewhat irksome position. With characteristic modesty and diffidence he has chosen a comparatively humble position in the Ministry. The Presidency of the Board of Trade will be more in harmony with his previous relations as a man of business, than the control of the destinies of our great Eastern Empire which he might have exercised. But the moral influence, wise counsel, and Parliamentary advocacy he will lend to the Government will probably be of more importance than his industry as the head of a department. A position which Mr. Cobden was obliged to decline Mr. Bright can not only honourably take, but could scarcely have refused. The Palmerston era is closed for ever; and if Mr. Gladstone has been unable to form a strictly Radical Cabinet, he invites Mr. Bright to become one of his colleagues amid universal approval, and with the full belief that his advanced principles will be in the ascendant. And though the member for Birmingham must necessarily surrender somewhat of his independence and freedom of action by joining the Government, we may well believe that, so long as he remains a responsible Minister, the public good and not party objects will be the supreme object of the Gladstone Cabinet.

Since Mr. Disraeli opened the sluices and let in the stream which has scoured away a mass of empty shams and tenacious prejudices in political life, genteel society has been prepared for any innovations, and even country squires will see Mr. Bright take his seat on the Treasury Bench, with resignation, if not with unconcern.

Perhaps they may enjoy a secret satisfaction that their stalwart foe is encumbered with official responsibility. The general public will recognise in the presence of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright at the same council board a double guarantee of a genuine Liberal policy. The new Government is strong in talent and administrative capacity, but it will be still stronger in the earnestness of purpose which these two master spirits will impart to it, and which more than aught else will frustrate the machinations of an adroit and watchful opponent. In becoming a right honourable, Mr. Bright virtually bids adieu to platform life. His mission is now to gather in the fruits of his past educational labours. Difficulties and delays in this new sphere there must needs be, but the whole tenour of his life, and the circumstances which have driven him into office, strengthen the public confidence in his integrity of purpose, his self-denying patriotism, and his never-swerving resolution to undo class legislation, and promote the just government of the people of these realms.

THE CADIZ INSURRECTION.

Now that it is all over one can take heart to say a word or two on the Cadiz Insurrection. A day or two since it wore a very disheartening aspect, and appeared to forebode for ill-fated Spain a certain and almost instant relapse into first anarchy, then military despotism. The immediate danger, we are happy to say, is over. The Provisional Government by a wise combination of firmness with forbearance has prevailed upon the insurgents to lay down their arms and submit themselves to the constituted authorities. What effect the event will have upon the seething turbulence of the capital, and of some one or two other cities in the Peninsula, it would be premature to say. We are not without hope that it will discourage lawless intentions where they exist, and prevent them from coming to the birth where they soon would exist under favouring circumstances. It is a matter for congratulation that the imminence of the crisis elicited from most parts of the country renewed declarations of loyalty to the Revolution, and that the manner in which the peril has been grappled with has so largely added to the moral influence of the Government as to offer it a fair prospect of giving to Spain a permanent system of institutional freedom.

It can hardly be denied that the chiefs of the Revolution which issued in the dethronement and flight of Isabella II. knew better how to obtain a fine opportunity for their country than what to do with it when they had obtained it. There has been unaccountable delay in calling together a Constituent Cortes—delay so great, indeed, and so unwise, as to suggest that there must have been reasons for it which could not be divulged to the nation. Whatever may have been the cause for it—whether Ministerial inertness, or inability to find a suitable candidate for the throne, or hope or fear of a Federal Republic, or dread of provoking reaction—the fact itself is a very unfortunate one. It has wasted the strength of the position which the easy triumph of Generals Prim and Serrano and Admiral Topete had secured. It has given time for the development of priestly plans of reaction, and it has necessitated irregular modes of rule exceedingly damaging to the reputation of the Provisional Government. But, apart from this inexplicable mistake, the Revolutionary chiefs have much to say for themselves, still more, perhaps, to urge for their excuse. They have had unusual difficulties to contend with—an ill-provided exchequer, bad national credit, an approaching famine, and an unemployed proletariat ready for any mischief. Hitherto they have contrived to keep things together, and to maintain without too menacing a display of the sword—the common fault of soldiers—a general respect for law, and, at least, an outward semblance of order. The Cadiz insurrection was interpreted by the foes of Liberalism as a sign that power was passing out of the hands of reasonable and moderate into those of irrational and desperate men. It does not seem that the interpretation was correct. The successful exercise of authority in vanquishing the insurgents, without further bloodshed, and without a single humiliating concession, shows a conscious reserve of power which promises better things for Spain than had been anticipated for her of late.

The outbreak at Cadiz appears to have resulted not so much from premeditated conspiracy as from the unfortunate concurrence of many irritating causes upon a population abnormally susceptible. It was not formally republican, nor socialistic, much less reactionary, although it took a predominantly republican complexion, made socialistic demands, and was probably encouraged by reactionary gold. There

was misery and want in the city—there were hosts of dissatisfied and turbulent ex-placemen, there were labourers who expected the Revolution to employ and feed them, and who were disappointed. Arms had been allowed to pass into the hands of these classes, and could not be conjured back again by fair speaking. Then came misunderstandings, and hot blood that would not take rebuke, and threats of resistance, and street skirmishes, and, at length, barricades, sanguinary struggles—in fact, within the area of the place, civil war. It is difficult, however, to make out that the insurgents were banded together by any definite purpose, or that such purpose, if they had one, was purely political. We shall learn more about it presently. Meanwhile we rejoice, in common with all men of Liberal sympathies, that the affair is at an end, and that it has been brought to an end without vindictive severity on the part of the Government. "It may be," as the *Daily News* says, "that Cadiz will have contributed to save the Revolution from its besetting dangers by an outbreak so speedily and happily ended, which has reconciled in the presence of a supreme emergency the claims and contentions of opposed political parties, and convinced them, each and all, of the primary necessity of preserving public liberty unsullied by disorder and excess."

Court, Official, and Personal News.

On Monday, the seventh anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort, her Majesty, the Royal Princes and Princesses now at Windsor Castle, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, paid their customary visit to the tomb of Prince Albert in the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore. There was a special service conducted by the Hon. and Rev. G. Wellesley, Dean of Windsor. After a chorale had been sung by the choir and a prayer delivered, the 23rd, 112th, and 146th Psalms were read by the Dean of Windsor, the choir responding. The second anthem after the Psalms was as follows:—

His body is buried in peace,
But his name liveth evermore—Amen.

The service was closed with an appropriate prayer. Dean Stanley was present at the service. The new tomb, in which the remains of the late Prince have at last found a resting place, was hewn from a solid block of dark grey Scotch granite. When the sarcophagus was carved the hollow within was made large enough to receive two coffins. In this the Prince's corpse has just been deposited, the coffin occupying just one half the hollow, the other being, it is said, reserved for the sorrowing widow of the Prince whose royal wish is to be beside her late husband when called from this earth. Her Majesty and the Princes and Princesses, before leaving the mausoleum, piously laid wreaths of immortelles against the sarcophagus. The mausoleum is now nearly complete, with the exception of some of the decorations. After the Queen's return to the Castle the mausoleum was, by her Majesty's command, opened for all the members of the household, including the servants resident within the Castle, and most of her Majesty's tradesmen in Windsor, to visit it.

On Sunday the Rev. T. J. Rowdell preached before the Queen and court at Windsor.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone dined with her Majesty and the royal family on Sunday.

The Dean of Westminster and Lady Augusta Stanley are staying at Windsor Castle.

The Princess of Wales completed her twenty-fourth year on the 1st inst.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury have been entertaining the Premier and Mrs. Gladstone, Mr. W. H. Gladstone, M.P., the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, M.P., and Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, M.P., at Hatfield House, Herts.

The story of the Earl of Strafford's serious illness is denied by his lordship himself, who says he has no intention, as the *Globe* cheerfully suggests, to make a vacancy in the House of Peers for Viscount Enfield, as long as he can keep his seat out.

It is stated that Lord Stanley promised, on behalf of the late Government, to give Mr. Ransom 5,000*l.*, and Dr. Riano and Lieutenant Prideaux 2,000*l.* each, as some compensation for their sufferings in Abyssinia. The awards will possibly be discussed in Parliament.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is informed that Mr. Justice Mellor, respecting whose health some alarming reports have appeared in the newspapers, is very much better, and hopes to take his seat on the bench next term.

Mr. Charles Dickens will be invited to a public banquet at Liverpool on the occasion of his farewell readings next month.

It is announced that Sir Richard Mayne is to be made a baronet for his long public services.

PRESERVING MILK.—A. M. Kirchofer, of Paris, has discovered a method of preserving milk. He takes pure milk, pours it into a bottle which he closes hermetically, and then treats the exterior of the bottle by an operation which is secret. It is said that the milk thus dealt with keeps like liqueur; cold, heat, or movement, exercise no influence upon it, and when drunk it has the same taste as if it were quite fresh.

Obituary.

THE REV. THOMAS ADKINS, OF SOUTHAMPTON, died on Wednesday morning last at his residence in that town, in the eighty-second year of his age. The deceased was one of the oldest Nonconformist ministers in England, and one who held for a longer period probably than any living man the pastoral care of a church and congregation; nearly sixty years having elapsed since he preached his first sermon in the Above Bar Congregational Chapel, and his actual pastorate extending over fifty-seven years. From a lengthened obituary notice in the *Hants Independent*, we glean a few particulars relative to the career of the late Mr. Adkins. The church of which he had the pastoral oversight is believed to have been founded in 1662, on the passing of the Act of Uniformity, but it would appear that no "settlement" was made till 1688, when there are documents which show that the church was under the pastoral care of the Rev. Nathaniel Robinson, an ejected and imprisoned rector of All Saints, and that Mr. Thorner, the founder of Thorner's Charity, and Mr. Watts, father of the celebrated Dr. Isaac Watts, were, with others, set apart as deacons of it. From that period to the present there have been but six pastors of the church. It was as far back as 1811, when Mr. Adkins accepted the call of the Above Bar Church. The members only numbered twenty-seven; they are now 450. A new edifice, the present chapel, was erected in 1820, and the Revs. W. Jay, of Bath, and G. Clayton, took part in the opening service. The incidents in the life of Mr. Adkins were not remarkable. He took a prominent part in the anti-slavery agitation in Southampton, and in 1831 was obliged to retire from pastoral duties for nearly two years, chiefly consequent on his labours as an advocate of the claims of the London Missionary Society. He attended, in 1841, the celebrated anti-Corn Law conference of upwards of 600 ministers, which had such an important influence in the decision of the question, and was unexpectedly called upon to preside over the first day's deliberations. In 1844 his congregation presented him with a cordial address, and a handsome testimonial on the 33rd anniversary of his pastorate. Shortly afterwards was commenced the movement for a second Congregational Church in Southampton, but Mr. Adkins gave it but a lukewarm support. However, he subscribed to the building fund of Albion Chapel, and preached at the opening services. The cause thus commenced now forms an influential supplement to the mother church, whom it emulates in its numerous agencies of Sunday and day schools, home and foreign missionary efforts, and societies of various kinds for promoting the moral, intellectual, and social improvement of those attaching themselves to it and their neighbours. Since that period chapels, assisted by Above Bar as the mother church, have been established at Hythe and for that busy part of the population of Southampton living at Northam. The jubilee of Mr. Adkins' ministry in 1860 was celebrated by the raising by subscription of a sum of upwards of 620*l.*, with which it was resolved to decorate and beautify the chapel, to provide it with an organ, and to present a purse of 100 guineas. The Rev. H. H. Carlisle, a student of Cheshunt College, having been for a twelvemonth assistant minister, was about this time chosen co-pastor of the Above Bar Chapel, and Mr. Adkins only took the Sunday morning service. His last sermon was preached in 1866, though at the communion meeting of united churches, held in Above Bar Chapel the first week in 1867, he appeared for a few minutes on the platform, gave a brief address, and was then obliged to leave. Since then he has taken no part in any public service, though we understand he continued very regularly to attend the services at the chapel until July last, from which time he has been but very little out of doors. The church, however, resolved when they found that he could not take part in public work to continue his income to him as heretofore. Mr. Adkins survived his wife several years, and their only child died in infancy. His only publications were reprints of discourses or addresses on special occasions. For the last few weeks it was evident that his end was drawing near. On Sunday last he fell into a comatose state, and on Monday was gathered to his fathers. The funeral of the deceased took place yesterday at Southampton. The Mayor and corporation attended in their robes of office, the maces and other corporate insignia shrouded in crape; and the borough magistrates, Church and Dissenting clergymen, and inhabitants of every shade of religious and political opinions joined together in paying a last tribute of respect to the memory of a worthy citizen by following his remains to the grave. The services in the cemetery were conducted in the most impressive manner by the Rev. Mr. Carlisle, who succeeds the deceased in the pastorate, and the Rev. Dr. Ferguson, of London. Thousands of persons were congregated in the cemetery, and nearly every shop and house in the principal streets had shutters up or blinds drawn, while several flags were placed half-mast in different parts of the town.

SUDDEN DEATH OF THE REV. R. W. OVERBURY.

—We have to record the sudden departure of another earnest worker in the cause of religious equality. The Rev. R. W. Overbury, Baptist minister, of Devonport, was called to his rest in a few moments on the morning of Friday last, the 11th inst. He had not been well for a few days previously, but was able to attend to his ordinary duties to the very last. On Thursday, the day before his decease, he attended the recognition tea-meeting of the Rev. William Currie, the newly-appointed minister of Princess-street Independent Chapel, Devonport; and although not well enough to take any active part in the proceedings, he enjoyed them most heartily, and was

cheerful and animated in conversation. Little did his friends then think that he was within an hour or two of his decease! On his return home he partook of supper, retired to rest, and slept well. In the morning, at the time when he was about to rise, but while still in bed, he suddenly threw his arms out, and, without a word or a groan, or a struggle, breathed his last in the presence of his beloved wife. His medical attendant was on the spot immediately, but he pronounced life quite extinct. The death had been almost instantaneous. Mr. Overbury was in his fifty-seventh year. He received his ministerial education at Stepney College, and after the completion of his college course was for twenty years pastor of the Baptist church, Eagle-street, London. On the 6th March, 1853, Mr. Overbury became pastor of the Baptist church meeting in Morice-square Chapel, Devonport. On the 10th August, 1856, he took charge of a new church formed at Salem Chapel, Morice-town, Devonport. Here, however, his health began seriously to fail him, and finding himself physically unequal to the demands of a stated pastorate, he and his people dissolved their church, and the greater number sought renewed membership with their "old mother" at Morice-square, of which church the Rev. John Stock had meanwhile become the pastor. Among those who returned were Mr. and Mrs. Overbury, who were received into the church at Morice-square the second time in September, 1859. Mr. Overbury now devoted his talents to the important work of the education of the young, for which, by his attainments, his loving spirit, and his genial temper, he was eminently fitted. He was, moreover, a most acceptable supply, and often filled the pulpits of the ministers of the three towns. For his pastor, Dr. Stock, he often officiated, and at the missionary station in Pembroke-street he was ever active. In him the church has lost a most holy and consistent member, and a generous and sympathising supporter; while in him his pastor ever found a faithful friend and a judicious counsellor. By his fellow-citizens he was much respected. He had the honour of being one of the founders of the Baptist Tract Society. He took part, too, in the formation of the Liberation Society, and was a steady supporter, both of its funds and its principles, to the last. At a meeting recently held in Devonport to sustain Mr. Gladstone's proposal to disendow and disestablish the Irish Church, Mr. Overbury rendered good service by his bold advocacy of that measure.

THE LATE MRS. NISBET, OF SAMOA.—All acquainted with Dr. Turner's History of the Polynesian Mission are fully informed of the earnest and successful labours of Mr. Nisbet and his devoted partner. For about twenty-seven years they have toiled on in the tropics, with only one short absence at Sydney. They returned to England last spring, at once to recruit their vigour and to secure Mr. Nisbet's superintendence of the printing of several important works. They went to Canada in early summer on a visit to relatives. Happy among their friends, they were engaged in arranging for the location of their family in Canada, when the anxious mother was summoned to her rest and reward. Her illness extended only over two weeks. She had encountered many privations and perils in her earlier years of missionary life, and had cheerfully sustained her noble-hearted husband amid all his trials. In the course of twenty-seven years she had seen a marvellous transformation in the social and religious life of the Polynesians, and had borne no small share in effecting that change. Her death, when made known in Samoa, will send sadness into many a home. Labours such as hers, over more than a quarter of a century, and among a people so largely blessed, could not fail to establish in her a household interest. —*Glasgow Herald*.

THE REV. HENRY COOKE, D.D., LL.D., died at Belfast on Sunday evening. The reverend gentleman, who was in his eightieth year, had been ill for some time, and his recovery was known to be hopeless. He was the distributor of the *Regium Donum*, and was one of the most able, vigorous, and uncompromising members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. He was a warm supporter of State grants, and declared himself opposed to the policy of Mr. Gladstone on the Irish Church. A few weeks before his death he published a letter reiterating his views on the subject. His influence was great, and his death will undoubtedly remove a serious difficulty in the way of many who naturally shrink from placing themselves in opposition to so eminent a divine on a question of this importance.

MR. STUART MILL ON THE ELECTIONS.—Mr. Mill, who is at Avignon, has written a letter to the Chelsea Working Men's Parliamentary Electoral Association upon the recent elections. With their result Mr. Mill expresses himself both gratified and disappointed. "It has decided thoroughly and irrevocably the question of religious equality in Ireland in the only way which could be tolerated in the present age—the impartial disendowment of all sects, and has to that extent lightened the burden of the reparation due to the people of that ill-treated country for centuries of misrule." He proceeds to notice the conspicuous failure of the "working-men's candidates," which he attributes to want of "organization and concert among voters, who, when the election took place, had only just been put on the electoral roll," and "to the inordinate expense of elections." Mr. Mill believes that "public opinion will in time demand the only complete remedy—the adoption of personal representation, by which the electors would be enabled to group themselves as they pleased, and any electors who chose to combine could be represented, in exact proportion to their numbers, by men of their own personal choice."

Literature.

"PRINCIPLES AT STAKE."*

If a motto had been wanted for this work, which should illustrate the common object of the writers, as well as the manner in which they have discussed their respective subjects, the most appropriate one would have been, "Let your moderation be known unto all men." Some of the most exciting subjects are discussed, and yet we do not think that there is one expression in the whole of the ten essays of which this volume is composed which is inconsistent with the most gentlemanly Christian character. It is extremely refreshing after, and, indeed, in a period when the most disparaging epithets have been bandied backwards and forwards by the various ecclesiastical parties which make up the Established Church, to meet with writers who unite firmness with courtesy, and inflexibility of principle with moderation of tone. This is the case, without exception, with every one of the contributors to this work. And, although nearly all the subjects that are discussed are external to our own closest sympathies, and although we fancy that we should, if we were Churchmen, differ from some of the views that are defended, we have read the book with great interest. Still greater is our admiration of the moral qualities of the men who have written it. If the clergy generally are too often characterised by an unrestrained and undignified passion in the discussion of public questions, there are, as we have always recognised, some men amongst them who know how to commend their views with a charity that never fails. Of such are these ten new essays.

The essays are as follows:—

- I. Ritualism and Uniformity. By Benjamin Shaw, M.A.
- II. The Increase of the Episcopate of the Church of England. By Lord Arthur Hervey, M.A.
- III. The Powers and Duties of the Priesthood. By R. Payne Smith, D.D.
- IV. National Education. By Alexander R. Grant, M.A.
- V. The Doctrine of the Eucharist considered in Connection with Statements Recently put forth respecting that Holy Sacrament. By the Editor.
- VI. Scripture and Ritual. By J. D. Bernard, M.A.
- VII. The Church in South Africa. By Arthur Mills, M.A.
- VIII. The Schismatic Tendency of Ritualism. By George Salmon, D.D.
- IX. The Revisions of the Liturgy, considered in their Bearings on Ritualism. By W. G. Humphry, B.D.
- X. Parties and Party Spirit. By John S. Howson, D.D.

Five of these, it will be seen, are on the Ritualistic controversy. There are some repetitions in these five essays, unavoidable where the views of the writers are very similar, and sometimes identical, and especially so when two of them go over the same historical ground. They all, more or less, go to prove the essentially Roman character of the movement. Mr. Shaw, having this object distinctly in view, quotes largely from the writings of the Ritualistic party. There is not much in these quotations with which we have not been familiar, and as a whole, they are not so good as those made by Mr. Rogers in the paper which that gentleman read at the last conference of the Liberation Society. But Mr. Shaw makes many good points. With regard, for instance, to the charge brought against the Evangelicals, that they are as deficient, as the Ritualists are excessive, in the observance of ceremonies, Mr. Shaw well says:—

"Let us now consider whether the characteristics of Low-Church departures from the rubric present like or unlike features.

"And first, these departures cannot be called innovations. With scarcely any exception of importance, the services are performed by the clergy of the school of which I am now speaking, in the manner common throughout the parochial churches of England at the beginning of this century and long previously. Be it that it is slovenly or unauthorised, still it is no novelty. It follows, therefore, that members of the school in question are not chargeable with having originated the acts or defaults spoken of; still less have they originated them as distinctive of their own party, or expressive of their peculiar views. If here and there any practice or omission appears to savour of a doctrinal peculiarity, it is, at all events, usually an isolated matter. There is little *unity* or *system* about the ritual deviations of Low Churchmen. They do not form a compact body, designed and put together for the direct purpose of giving outward expression to a system of dogmas. No controversial treatises have been written by theologians of this school laying down and advocating a detailed code of observance, or non-observance, as to matters of public worship, with a view to promote the reception of what are known as Low-Church tenets."

After other remarks, Mr. Shaw adds, as the real point, that "the observances or non-observances of Low Churchmen do not stand in

"close relation with an attempt to re-introduce a system from which the Church of England, by a great ecclesiastical and national effort, has liberally freed itself, and which it has emphatically and distinctly condemned. They do not correspond to any attempt to abolish the leading principles of the Reformation." This is, we think, a complete answer to the parallel which has been suggested. If it were not so, Mr. Shaw has another answer. He shows, although not, perhaps, with sufficient minuteness, that the Church of England has borne a different attitude to the various bodies of Nonconformists to that which it has borne to the Church of Rome. Her breach with the former, he remarks, has been looked upon as not irreparable, while that with the latter has been treated as practically hopeless. This is true within limitations, but it would be truer to say that the Church, as an ecclesiastical body, has always treated the reunion with Protestant Nonconformists as hopeless, and that it has done its best to make such union impossible. There is no doubt, in fact, that the errors of the Church of Rome have been viewed with a more lenient feeling than the assumed errors of Nonconformists, and that the gravitation of the Church, as a whole, has lately been more in the Romeward than in the Protestant direction. Mr. Shaw, however, accounts for the frequent assumption that his Church lies only midway between Protestantism and Rome, and indeed nearer to the latter than to the former. He says:—

"The fact is, that during a long series of years—partly owing to the penal statutes, partly to the imputation of political disaffection under which the professors of the Romish faith were supposed to labour—Romanism was almost unheard of amongst us. Dissent was the only antagonist in presence, and Dissent came to be treated as the only antagonist in existence. Hence a sort of maxim sprang up which seemed to do well enough for all practical purposes, that a man's 'good Churchmanship' was to be measured by his antipathy to Puritanism. By degrees what was a rule of everyday life, became admitted as an axiom of theology. It seems really to have been supposed that the one mission of the Church of England was to denounce ultra-Protestantism. It is perfectly astonishing how far and how deeply this misconception has spread. But it cannot be examined without its fallacy being seen. 'A fond thing vainly invented,' a thing plainly repugnant to the Word of God; a thing 'repugnant to the plain words of Scripture,' and that 'overthroweth the nature of a sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions,' 'blasphemous fables and dangerous deceits'—such is the strong language in which tenets of the Church of Rome are spoken of by the Church of England. And language like this can neither be passed over nor explained away. It gives us the measure of the vast gulf which lies between the Romish system and the doctrines of the Reformation."

This, also, is true. The Church did say this; but, does the language quoted, correctly represent the state of feeling in the Church now? That, we take it, is the "main point." Mr. Shaw clearly decides that Ritualism should be dealt with, and that it ought not to be considered an open question. How it should be dealt with he does not suggest, but he does not conceal the gravity of the present crisis, when the question is, whether the future of the Church of England is to be shaped by the spirit of the Reformation, or by the genius of Rome.

The remaining four essays relating to Ritualism in this volume are of the same tendency as the first. Mr. Sumner himself, in a remarkably candid as well as learned examination of the doctrine of the Church on the Eucharist, identifies, as every one must do, the doctrine of the Ritualists with that of Rome, and urgently calls upon the members of his Church to take their stand in defence of the Reformation. Canon Bernard's essay takes a broader sweep. Coming, as it does, from a cathedral dignitary of the most ritualistic of all Protestant Churches, we have read it with refreshing surprise. Instead of being thrown back upon old Jewish laws and isolated texts of Scripture, we are at once, after the ground has been fairly cleared of the stubble of the Judaists, referred to Scriptural principles. Canon Bernard meets the Judaistic argument, based upon the rites of the Temple, face to face, maintaining, first, that the Temple ritual could not be, and was not continued; and secondly, that Christian congregations have their types not in the Temple, but in the synagogues. He then discusses the relation of all ritual, of whatever kind, to the principles of the Christian religion. He maintains that the Jews had no Divine directions for public worship, but only for the typical system localised in a single spot, which system was fulfilled in Christ. The forms of their ordinary worship were of human ordinance, and were a part, "not of the revelation of the mind of God, but of the expression of the mind of man." The first law of Scriptural Ritualism, therefore, is that of "liberty"; the second is that of "order." Such order means, not uniformity, but decorousness; and it is maintained that, even if we knew exactly what the first Christian assemblies did, we should not have a complete rule for ourselves. The third

rule is edification, and it is held that rites and ceremonies, not being imposed by Divine order, are absolutely subject to this rule. Very weighty are some of Canon Bernard's remarks upon this point:—

"The principle, that all must be done to edifying, places the whole fashion and order of religion in entire subordination to the interests of the spiritual life. Proposals to impress, to dazzle, to charm the imagination, to make the senses a way to the heart, must be subjected to this decisive test. Methods for attracting those that are without must be judged by their fitness to attract them to God, and a framework for the education of devotion by its tendency to promote worship in spirit and in truth, and 'object-lessons in religion' by the character of the religion which they teach."

But, while this rule is in its relation to the truth positive and inflexible, it has at the same time a certain pliancy in its relation to man, since it compels the consideration of actual capacities and habits, seeing that what would be edifying in one case would not be so in another. Symbols, for instance, which would be intelligible, and expressions of feeling which would be natural, at Constantinople in the days of Chrysostom, might not be so in England now. Ceremonies (say of commemoration of the dead or of anointings with oil), in one age savouring only of holy truths, might appear in another as surrounded with dangerous suggestions or disturbing associations, which in the meantime they had accumulated. A service, which might seem a natural language to a musically-educated people, might be to a common congregation as though celebrated in an unknown tongue. Or an order and manner fashioned by English taste and traditions might have a deadening effect in a church of negroes or Chinese. This rule then carries with it a principle of consideration, a character of elasticity, and yet its proper effect must be to keep a strong check upon ritual development. It cannot but create a taste at once sober and sensitive, a seriousness of purpose which will be impatient of attempts at effect, and a desire for spiritual profit which will shrink from histrionic imitations and the elaboration of artistic display."

The rule of "restriction" is next dealt with. In connection with this branch of the argument Canon Bernard refers to the ecclesiastical ceremonies which were derived from the heathen associations of Rome. He thinks that these were then natural—childish and gross, although they were—but, he asks, are these fashions of Paganism to be esteemed as an ordinance of God and a heritage for ever? This brief description of Canon Bernard's essay will give the reader some idea of its freshness. To our mind the Canon proves almost more than he would care to prove, condemning, by implication, much of the ordinary ritual of his own Church.

Dr. Salmon's essay on the "Schismatical Tendency of Ritualism" is an endeavour to prove that the Ritualists are causing needless and unwarrantable divisions in the Church. The writer dwells at some length upon the want of reverence for ecclesiastical and especially Episcopal authority, which is certainly characteristic of this party, and upon their extreme self-will. He happily contrasts the spirit of the writers of the "Tracts for the Times" with their more modern and more developed successors. Here he touches upon the question of Church and State:—

"It is no wonder, then, that an Establishment should not be in favour with the party of which I am speaking, and that they should express their desire to see the Church relieved from the fetters which State connection imposes on it. But I am persuaded that when the matter is examined into, it will be found that what is really objected to is often not limitations imposed by the State on Church authority, but the power, limited as it is, which State connection gives to Church officers to enforce obedience. The ideal of many is a Church completely on the voluntary system, where the priest, supported by liberal offertories from his congregation, should be absolutely uncontrolled by any external authority. If a bishop thoroughly agree with him, he will gladly accept so respectable a leader; if the bishop disapprove of his proceedings, he does not desire to trouble himself about him, unless he happen to want ordination for a curate. This conception, however, could only be carried out on the system of the Independents; for if the Church of England, though separated from the State, were to remain together as one body, it is probable that the vote of a considerable majority would impose on individual liberty restrictions quite as severe as any which the law of the land imposes at present. I cannot help branding as schismatical a conception which reduces the Church from an organised body to a mere name for a collection of independent Presbyters, each teaching and acting as he pleases. One is reminded of Lord Amberley's proposal of an Established Church, completely relieved from the incumbrance of creeds, each of whose teachers was completely free, and in which, if I remember right, even the existence of a God was to be an open question."

The last of this class of essays is, in one respect, the most valuable of them all. Mr. Humphry has examined, with almost exhaustive ability, the revisions of the Liturgy from Henry VIII. downwards with reference to the characteristic doctrines of the Ritualists, showing how those doctrines were gradually eliminated, and how the Church became, in this respect, more and more Protestant in its character. In addition to his essay, Mr. Humphry has given, in parallel columns, the text of the Liturgies of 1549, 1552, 1559, and 1662. Most certainly, the comparison is calculated greatly to strengthen the case against the present innovators.

We have left ourselves but little space to deal with the remaining articles in this volume.

* *Principles at Stake. Essays on Church Questions of the Day.* Edited by GEORGE HENRY SUMNER, M.A. John Murray.

That on the "Powers and Duties of the Priest-hood" is written with more liberality than one could ordinarily expect from an Episcopalian clergyman. Dr. Payne Smith, we are glad to see, lays the greatest stress upon preaching. Lord Hervey's essay on the "Episcopate," in which extension is urged in the way of creating archdeacons, as a sort of suffragan bishops, at moderate salaries, while it would, no doubt, meet the wants of the Episcopalian community, is not likely to meet the desires of the high order of Churchmen. Mr. Grant's essay on "National Education" has for its object the postponement of the dreaded alternative of a secular rating system. Mr. Grant would increase the Parliamentary vote, and somewhat relax the present system, but he strongly approves of it as a whole. Mr. Mills's article on the "Church in South Africa," gives an able and succinct history of the Natal case, and is also written to keep things as much as possible in their present condition. The last essay fitly treats of "Parties and Party Spirit." While every party in the Church, and many parties out of it, are described by Dr. Howson, none, we imagine, will take offence at his descriptions. The Dean sees good in all, and is ready to believe of good in everything excepting "party spirit."

One feature most of these essays have in common. There is a general sense amongst the writers that great changes are at hand. Mr. Sumner's imagination of the possible character of these changes is rather lurid, but others appear to look forward to them, if with apprehension and regret, also with hope and confidence, trembling though it be. It is remarkable how much of this kind of feeling there is amongst Churchmen, and how impossible it is for them to throw it off. In the *Herald* of last week there was printed a private letter of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, written a few months ago, and full of the same foreboding feeling. Courage, brethren! They who possess their souls in patience will not be disturbed; and in proportion to the purity of your Church will it be able to endure the strokes of man, and the siftings of an Almighty Providence.

"THE OCCUPATIONS OF A RETIRED LIFE."

This novel opens up a very interesting, though a very old question, which it only answers in part. But in partially answering it on the side opposed to the general idea or prejudice, the work asserts a special significance and claims more than a merely passing notice. The question is this—Does fiction properly religious, by the very fact of its being so, sacrifice the interest involved in the truthful delineation of any other phase of deep and real experience? That a religious novel is generally held to be a kind of unhealthy, half-tolerated hybrid, one does not need to prove by special or detailed references. It is a point vaguely assumed; and most readers are well prepared to steer clear of anything in the shape of religion in a story. Yet why should this be so? Are not the facts of the religious life real enough? Does not the light of the external or historic, in the case of many "beautiful souls," traverse the whole being to its inmost core, touching all the springs of action, flooding the whole being with exquisite new delights and possibilities of pain, and making in the heretofore vacant *camera obscura* of the heart, one radiant picture most diversely set and coloured? And not only so; does not this picture, gradually brought out into common view in the life, sympathetically catch fresh lustre from all that is beautiful and true—at the same time, however, only deepening by contrast the dark shadows that lurk in the byways of life, and stir, gaunt and awfully oppressive, in the centres where men crowd thickest? The whole interest and tragic colouring of human life arises from the contest between the soul, secured in the sense of its inalienable freedom, and the dark forces of Nature both without and within—the affections blighted by their objects being snatched away, pure aspirations foiled, high hopes crushed and beaten down, and noble efforts baffled. All emotion is generated by the perception of such an antagonism, and can only recover itself from a steely rebound to stoical despair, by falling back on the ideal of life. And this ideal, like a hanging garden, rests upon the granite pillars of the religious instincts. We are thus forced to the conclusion that religion and art are somehow closely allied, and that every true work of fiction must deal ultimately with the religious life, although it may be indirectly, unconsciously, and by suggestion rather than dogmatically. Man's religious needs are real and not fictitious; and it is only by returning

upon them that the unity of human life, disturbed by thousandfold agencies of evil, and passion, and crime, and cruelty, and wrong, can be effectually recovered.

And it is because the necessity of such a return lies confessed in the vacant unsatisfactoriness of all visible and sensible things and relations, that religion *will* involve itself in the very fibre of the most secular and commonplace, declaring them else illusive and evil. The clear perception of this, as a fact of life, leads even Goethe, the uncompromising artistic realist, to turn abruptly from the most prosaically secular characters and incidents into the very centre and well-spring of religious experience. It is, in his case, as though in turning the corner of a dusty London street, full of tumult and fever, you found yourself in a green grove made sacred by the songs of saints wafted heavenward on gentle and fragrant breezes. "Art," says Mrs. Browning, "art puts action on 'the top of suffering.'" The agonies which the religious life brings into man's being, are surely of the deepest and awfulest, when, in rare moments of privileged experience, it leads him up to the outer parallels and gives a glimpse of the Beyond, disarranging all his former cosy habitudes by new and searching lights cast over them all. He who puts action on the crown of that suffering to seal it in the unity of one expressive picture, is not only a story-teller, but a teacher, and in his own degree a bringer of good tidings. Goethe, in his very determination to be artistically true, accorded his testimony to the eternal facts of the religious life. "The Confessions of a Fair Soul" in this way justifies its place in "Wilhelm Meister." By it, Goethe unconsciously held out a hand of brotherhood to John Bunyan, who surely, in the "Pilgrim," set action on the top of suffering, in such clear, graphic tones as were never approached, not to speak of being equalled. It is because of this unfeigned confession that Goethe is a higher artist than Miss Edgeworth, and George Eliot (though she has learned nearly all her religion from Goethe) greater than Thackeray and Trollope. Every genuine work of art must, therefore, in its final issue, appeal to and illumine the religious element in life. It is so in the Greek drama; so also in Shakespeare's high intelligence. It is so even with George MacDonald, when, rising above his too frequently over-mastering theological prejudices, he faithfully represents a Thomas Crann or a Mrs. Falconer.

Religion, then, is not only a possible subject on which art may consciously work; it is a necessary and indispensable background and substratum on which it *must* rest, if by completing the circle of aspiration it is to fulfil to the eye of the soul what the senses can at best but convey broken hints and signs of. All genuine works of art, are *possibly* religious, though religion be not consciously made a subject. Where religion is consciously made a subject, we have properly religious novels. What, then, are the conditions these should observe? The religious life viewed as direct subject of art differs not from any other phase of experience. That which is human and universal must be set over against that which is merely temporary and conventional, and must dramatically justify itself in the final movement and balance of the whole. In other words, all the merely intellectual readings of the facts of the religious life must be held up to us in the light of their emotional capabilities, and the foreground they open for sympathy through their manifestations in concrete character. The more the characters are drawn together imaginatively by being seized at the point where emotion in its intensity consumes all the cobweb distinctions and differences generated of intellectual elaboration and conventional regards, the more the individual and outward representations will differ from each other, giving fullest field for dramatic treatment. For the true religious life, like all other forms of real life, unfolds itself from centre to circumference in faithful typical variety. One individual is never the mere reflex of another any more than one flower is a copy of another. It is only when elements of life common to the circumference, are alone seized on, that we can possibly have sameness or repetition.

How then stands "The occupations of a Retired Life" in these respects? It is properly a religious novel; but although it betrays a constant and self-conscious strain after something which the author himself seems not to have mastered or been completely assured of it so faithfully aims at observing the dramatic, rule, that we must accord to it a very high place among works of its class. Edward Garrett and his sister Ruth are vividly set before us in action; their words, though direct clear and ringing, are, as we may say, but the leaves accompanying, sometimes hiding a little,

the fruit of deep religious experience and self-consistent actions, all directed by one spirit and coloured by one purpose. The other characters, on whom necessarily the strain of the story rests, and who here and there show themselves somewhat weak and halting under it, are gathered round the elderly pair and related to them by purely emotional links, which work themselves more and more into clearness and brightness as they are tried by prosaic everyday twists and rubs. The benevolence of Edward and Ruth Garrett is its own justification in the order and harmony and good which it gradually and almost unconsciously draws out of the chaos of evil and injustice and sin which at first it finds lying round it. There is, on the author's part, no affectation of justifying it by any form of words, or any set of opinions interjected with iron persistency behind the characters. And here lies the strength of the work as genuine religious art; the book being consequently free from cant and preaching, though tremulously alive with the stir of great impulses and desires after good. We learn from the Garretts less how to think than how to live; and get every now and again fresh inspirations to practical and noble effort. The author we should imagine has really spent a life in every respect as practical and active as Edward Garrett is represented as having done; and while drawing deeply from the purest fountains of English thought, he has coloured what has been derived from them, by rich and original reflections on life and men such as could only be attained through daily and loving contact with rude, un congenial, and unpromising types. Here and there the most prosaic details and points of character are touched with a reserve of pathos—a sad subdued autumnal colouring against which the outlines come out so sharp as even to distress the eye by a sense of nearness—that actually translates them into a kind of Crabbe-like poetry. This is pre-eminently the case with Mary Wilmot and her boy—her letter has a tragedy gathered-up and beating warm between its poor misspelt lines. And not less so is that seen in the manner in which the author dispenses with the play of poetic justice, when at the close she marries Miss Herbert to Mr. Ralph, leaving Ewen McCallum touched with the sense of a loss never to be made up to him, and yet feeling himself, nevertheless, all the richer by it. The loving self-denial of the Garretts bears its proper fruit, and that is the poetical justice of the story—no other being possible to true creative instinct. In saying that the author of this book has shown complete story-telling faculty, and yet kept close to the real without verging too closely on the sensational; that he has written a religious novel with genuine dramatic aim, and has intensified instead of sacrificed, the broad elements of human interest by gradually drawing them into contact with the religious sphere through the universal and subtle chords of emotion—in saying this we bestow no slight praise; and we confess that we look forward with no little interest to further productions from the same pen.

In justice we must indicate, in a word or two, the author's mastering defect, judging from this single work. He allows himself to be too keenly influenced by what of immediate and merely temporary interest claims his attention while he is writing. Mere passing questions are now and again drawn, like imperfectly twisted threads, into the texture of the web of incident and character. These proclaim themselves only too clearly to be foreign by the very fact of their being drawn in with such direct and clinching energy. Whenever Ruth, for instance, is made to speak of High-Churchism, she is scarce herself, but becomes for the moment a mouthpiece for somebody else to speak through. And not only so, but almost invariably when the author allows his imagination to get thrown out of its orbit, like an asteroid, it dashes itself on the rocks and gives out all its heat and light on a medium which absorbs all and returns none by refraction. There are several instances of this, but one or two passages of Chap. XXI. are particularly faulty.

These, however, are minor defects. We have read "The Occupations of a Retired Life" with profit and enjoyment. It is bracing in the healthy strength of the pleasure it affords; and on the ordinary novel-reader it should act as a sort of tonic. We cordially recommend it to all who wish to combine instruction with the passing of a pleasant hour.

"GOOD WORDS FOR THE YOUNG."

The proprietors of this new magazine for children have committed themselves to a bold enterprise, but one which it is more than prob-

* *The Occupations of a Retired Life.* By EDWARD GARRETT. (Finsley Brothers.)

* *Good Words for the Young.* No. 1, November. No. 2, December. Strahan and Co.

able the spirit of the age will prove to have justified. It is a sign of the times; and if the experiment prove successful, it will be an indication that the somewhat straitened teaching of our young days has given way to a more fearless and diversified system. That it has done so to a large extent none will question, but that the progressive spirit has penetrated to the multitude of Christian families in our land, it needs the undoubted success of some such periodical as this to demonstrate.

There is, however, a danger of giving too liberal an encouragement to miscellaneous reading in children which the conductors of this magazine will no doubt recognise and guard against. The editorship of Dr. Macleod is some guarantee that this will be the case. It is always difficult to discover the just mean between providing for a demand already existing and well understood, and inducing a demand by furnishing the supply in anticipation of it. We hope that Dr. Macleod and his colleagues will neither write with a view to a popular sale, nor make shipwreck of their adventure by too strict an adherence to an educational, or to any other programme. In saying this, however, we are by no means intimating that there is anything in the numbers before us to justify such an apprehension.

Most of our readers have probably seen the first numbers of *Good Words for the Young*, and formed their own judgment upon it. There is the less need, therefore, to do anything more than glance at its chief characteristics. Remembering that, after all, the education of any child sufficiently well-informed to read and appreciate these articles, must be determined by influences at home and at school exercised upon him every day and every hour of his life, we can see nothing to object to in the parabolic teaching of the Rev. Charles Kingsley, although we should rather distrust anything like a systematic resort to such a form of instruction, were it to supersede a more direct and literal mode. It would be a misfortune, for instance, if it became a fashion to substitute such figurative speech as the following for that which might as clearly be expressed in less fanciful terms.

"Madam How is never idle for an instant. Nothing is too great or too small for her, and she keeps her work before her eye in the same moment, and makes every separate bit of it help every other bit. She will keep the suns and stars in order, while she looks after poor old Mrs. Daddy-long-legs there and her eggs. She will spend thousands of years in building up a mountain, and thousands of years in grinding it down again; and then carefully polish every grain of sand which falls from that mountain, and put it in its right place, where it will be wanted thousands of years hence, and she will take just as much trouble about the one grain of sand as she did about the whole mountain. She will settle the exact place where Mrs. Daddy-long-legs shall lay her eggs, at the very same time that she is settling what shall happen hundreds of years hence in a star millions of miles away, and I really believe that Madam How knows her work so thoroughly that the grain of sand which sticks now to your shoe, and the weight of Mrs. Daddy-long-legs' eggs at the bottom of her hole will have an effect upon suns and stars ages after you and I are gone."

Our criticism does not apply to Mr. Kingsley's article *per se*, but to a tendency which we would rather check than encourage. Of his felicitous mode of presenting to the minds of the young the discoveries of science and the wonderful phenomena of nature it would be impossible to speak too highly, and we rejoice to think that his writings will be more widely read by young readers than they have ever been before.

The writer who is already well known to the readers of *Good Words* under the *nom de plume* of Matthew Browne, gives promise of a series of articles as entertaining as instructive; and, although his programme is rather an ambitious one, we have every confidence that he will fulfil his contract.

"They are to be about the world and the skies and the seas, the cities, the kings and queens, and the millions of people; the things that the people invent and make. Ships and cranes to lift weights and steam engines, and ploughs, and ten thousand things. Books and pictures and statues, and fine buildings and poetry. Fathers and mothers, and brothers and sisters, friends and lawyers and doctors, and wise men of many sorts. Then I shall speak to you of heroes and saints, and the kingdom of God, and last of all I will try to speak to you of God Himself, the Creator, the Saviour, and the Holy Spirit."

In the current number we have the first of these articles, which is upon "The World"; and it must be admitted that Matthew Browne has set down in a single page a pretty fair sprinkling of those objects, forces, and conditions of existence that go to make up a "poet's" idea of the word world.

It was not our purpose to refer in detail to the contributions of the writers for *Good Words for the Young*, and we shall not pursue our comments upon them individually any further than to say that Dr. Macleod's "Finding when 'not Expecting,'" in both numbers is, although short, full of a genuine simple piety, which will go to the hearts of children.

The other papers are varied and interesting to children of any age, though we are by no means sure that they will not be as eagerly read by those who look back a long distance to the days of their own childhood. The numerous woodcuts, too, are very descriptive, and executed in the best modern style. On the whole, we must conclude with the hackneyed phrase that *Good Words for the Young* is in all respects "a marvel of cheapness."

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.—III.

We can have no hesitation in giving precedence this week among the story-books to three prettily-illustrated books from Messrs. Bell and Daldy, consisting of reprints of tales and sketches from *Aunt Judy's Magazine*. They are entitled (1) *Mrs. Over-the-Way's Remembrances*, by Mrs. J. H. EWING; (2) *Later Tales*, by HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN; and (3) *Friends in Fur and Feathers*, by GWYNETH. We can scarcely say more in their praise than that they could hardly have been better adapted for juvenile reading if they had been written by Mrs. Gatty herself. Of Andersen it is quite needless to speak particularly here. We may remark, however, that his "later" tales possess all the characteristics of his earlier ones. Mrs. Ewing in "Mrs. Over-the-Way's Remembrances," is delightfully chatty and good-natured, shedding a genial influence on all around her. The child that is fortunate enough to have her as a guest in her sick-room must indeed admit that sickness has its compensations. "Friends in Fur and Feathers" (2) is a series of "true stories" about birds, dogs, and other animals, all of which are not only worth the telling, but are admirably told. These three little volumes are illustrated by capital full-page engravings on toned paper of drawings by Keyl, Speaker, Wolf, Cooper, Pasquier, and others.

Queer Discourses on Queer Proverbs, by OLD MERRY (Hodder and Stoughton), is decidedly a queer book. "Old Merry" has given the range to two of his best qualities in this book—wit and wisdom. The wit is good and so is the wisdom, but the two things will not suit the same class of persons. There are some capital puns, but the puns are followed by good, but what the young folks will consider, and, according to our testimony, do consider, to be heavy moralising. Looked at from an older point of view, we can see the cleverness of the first and the truth of the second, but it is a marriage of childhood and age, and the whole is incongruous, and therefore not satisfactory. Very different are the *Stories from Germany* (same publishers), translated by ANNIE HARWOOD. One of these stories, by Hoffman, is of the California gold-diggings, and is full of adventure, well and strikingly told, and in a manner calculated to excite as well as to impress the imagination. The second, entitled "Cobbler, the Clerk, and the Lawyer of Liebstein," by Gustav Nieritz, is full of fine, rich feeling as well as varied incident. Miss Harwood will add greatly to the wealth of children's literature, if she can find many more stories from the German like these, and if she translates them as successfully as she has done her work in this instance. It is a book which children will devour, and which is worth devouring.

Lily and Nannie at School, by ANNIE J. BUCKLAND (Cassell and Co.), is an admirable tale of school-girl life. The authoress seems to have a thorough knowledge of the faults and follies as well as of the more attractive characteristics of children, and has availed herself with considerable skill of the opportunity presented by a story of school life to delineate very various characters. It is intended especially for little girls, and will unquestionably gratify them highly. It is well illustrated by full-page engravings.

Clever Dogs, Horses, &c., with Anecdotes of other Animals. By SHIRLEY HIBBERD. (London: S. W. Partridge and Co., Paternoster-row.) This is a book that boys will revel in. Mr. Hibberd has collected a mass of choice and wonderful stories, which will not only interest our juvenile friends, but deepen their regard for the animal creation. A profusion of whole-page engravings, chiefly designed by Mr. Harrison Weir, illustrate the text, and the volume is set in a gay coloured and gilt binding. To the anecdotes about dogs and horses are added others, which illustrate the habits of birds and monkeys, all of which tend to inculcate kind feeling towards the animal world. This volume is worthy of the series of which it forms a part, and is an excellent gift-book for the season.

The Golden Gift, a book for the young (W. P. Nimmo) is a very handsome volume superbly printed on the best quality of paper, the letter-press surrounded by a plain red line, and illustrated by numerous choice engravings. The reading matter consists of selections in prose and verse, both grave and gay. The volume is evidently intended more for ornament than use, although it is one that might occasionally be introduced and read aloud, and exhibited by the mother of a family as a *pièce de résistance*.

The Five Days' Entertainment at Wentworth Grange. By FRANCIS TURNER PALGRAVE. (Macmillan and Co.) This is, taken altogether, one of the best children's books of the season. Mr. Palgrave has brought all the power of a superior intellect to the

amusement and instruction of the little folk, and he appears to us to have achieved very fair success in what must always be a very difficult task. The publishers have done their best to supplement his efforts. The artistic illustrations are of a superior order, and the book is in every way attractive.

Among tales more especially intended for boys, we must not omit to mention *Lost in Paris*, and *Other Tales*, by EDWIN HODDER (Hodder and Stoughton), in which if there are some bad woodcuts there are certainly some very exciting stories. The first in particular gives a very vivid and thrilling account of the troubles of an English boy who lost his way in Paris, and got into very uncomfortable quarters.—*The Wild Man of the Woods*. From the French. (Seeley and Co.) A narrative of life in Sumatra, which no boy can fail to enjoy. The wild man of the woods is of course the orang outhang, the specimen here represented being of such an amiable nature that it took great care of a little boy whom it waylaid, and kept him in the bosom of its family for several years, during which time the poor boy lost his power of articulation and became quite reconciled to his new position. There are several good woodcuts, which, taken in connection with the stirring incidents related, make up a capital boy's book.—*Adventures of Hans Stark, the South African Hunter and Pioneer*. By Captain A. W. DRAYSON, R.A. (London: Griffith and Farran.) is a book well fitted to arouse the interest and spirit of boys. Hans Stark was a South African hunter, and the book is full of stories of his daring adventures among savage beasts and hardly less savage men. From first to last it is full of life and variety, and while it maintains the interest throughout, will also give boys some knowledge of the people of South Africa and their mode of life.—*Ralph Luttrell's Fortunes by Rail, by Road, by Sea*, a book for boys, by ROBERT ST. JOHN CORBET, with illustrations (Warne and Co.), is a story of modern life with a rich variety of stirring incident. The writer tells us "it is a tale to be rattled through during the 'Christmas holidays—a little bit of rest in the form of 'diversion.'" It thoroughly answers to this description.

Christmas would be nothing to the young folks without extravagant and fantastic drollery, a quality which is amply represented in a long array of books still on our table. In *Rose Pink and Sky Blue, and other Stories*, by W. F. COLLIER, LL.D. (W. P. Nimmo), they may find it to their heart's content; but we cannot acquit the author of blame in importing into his tales an element of coarseness which one does not like to see infused into juvenile literature. The illustrations are very fair, and the book, saving the blemish we have hinted at, is a harmless book enough, and certainly amusing.—*Every Day Painted Picture Play and Scrap-book* (Dean and Son) is one of a class of universally-admired books for babes that need no commendation. It is very rich in pictures, large and small, some pages containing two, and others thirty or forty. The rhymes and the illustrations are equally grotesque.—*Queer Characters* (Cassell and Co.) is one of a series of shilling toy-books mentioned below, combining the attractions of picture-book, fable, and caricature. No one can know how much even in outward appearance he has in common with the brute creation, until he sees a book of this sort. He cannot deny the evidence of his senses. Here is the brawny blacksmith, with the head of honest Dobbin, bent on sober work—while a ploughman listening to a dialogue he cannot understand, has the face of an ox, which capably hits off the very unmeditative stare not seldom to be met with in the bucolic race. In another picture the ruffianism of the burglar, the complacency of the counsel, the gravity of the judge, the keenness of the lawyer, and even the officialism of the policeman, are all admirably portrayed in the countenances of dogs, assembled in due state in a court of law. There is very considerable talent displayed in these coloured engravings.—*Mince Pie Island*, by ROBERT ST. JOHN CORBET (Cassell and Co.), is very disappointing, and so utterly fantastical and unmeaning that we wonder to find it among Messrs. Cassell's very successful series of stories.—Mr. J. Thackray Bunce in *Cloudland and Shadowland* (Cassell and Co.), has with somewhat similar materials produced a very different result. Little Johnnie's visit to the clouds and the man in the moon, will cause immense clapping of hands if read out aloud. Mr. Bunce gives full play to his imagination, but his description of things, places, and events are such as a child's experience of life and its wonders will enable him to realise; in fact his stories are clearly and vividly drawn as fairy tales should be. The illustrations, eight in number, are excellent; and the book is strongly bound and clearly printed in large type.—*The Illustrated Book of Games, Riddles, and Rhymes* (T. Nelson and Sons), bound in paper boards, belongs to the class of books intended for amusement. Its character is fully described in its title, and we may add that it is a very reasonable visitor. It is by no means the only one or the best of its kind, but it contains very simple and humorously illustrated descriptions of pastimes for children, and will be thoroughly appreciated by them.—*Comic Alphabet of Animals* (Gall and Inglis) is a gorgeously finished attempt to make the alphabet enticing to the very youngest mind by connecting it with ludicrous caricatures of certain members of the animal creation. The pictures are admirable, and the letterpress suits the pictures to a "T."

Messrs. Gall and Inglis (Edinburgh) have brought out a number of sixpenny *Nursery Toy Books*, resplendent with coloured pictures. They include the stories of "Jack and the Bean Stalk," "Beauty and the Beast," "The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood," and "The Comic Alphabet of Animals," (already mentioned) abbreviated so as to be brought into small compass, and divested of all that might be objectionable. The pictures are good of their kind, and with their blasing colours will dazzle our young friends. It puzzles us to understand how they could have been so cheaply produced.

Messrs. Cassell and Co. have also issued a series of shilling picture-books, entitled *Robinson Crusoe*, *Esop's Fables*, *Queer Characters*, and *Cock Robin*, very far superior to the above in point of illustration. One of these, as belonging indisputably to the comic order, we have alluded to in another paragraph. The large page engravings are done in water colours, after the manner of "Aunt Louisa's Toy Books." We can only speak of them with unreserved praise as nursery dainties.

The *Child's Own A B C*, with *Object Lessons* (Dean and Son.) In this book the glory of colour is given to the letters, and very attractive such letters should be to any child. We, a good many years ago, had to learn ugly, plain black things that would not look enticing, but since then printing has become almost a decorative art. If any child should doubt this, let him look at an old spelling-book, and then let him look at this "Child's Own A B C," with its capital illustrations and its well-selected words. Learning the alphabet, with a good deal more, ought to be as pleasant as a walk in the garden, when it has to be learned from a book like this.

Historical tales well told are among the best books that can be provided for the young, and there is ample material in English history to allow of sufficient variety. Unfortunately those who prepare books of this character are too fond of keeping in old beaten tracks which have been sufficiently well trodden before, and neglecting those which have hitherto been left almost untouched. — *Tales of Heroes, taken from English History* (Nelson and Sons) are open to this among other objections. Surely the stories of Alfred and Richard Cœur de Lion have been told often enough, and in every variety of form, and cannot require to be repeated. The pages of Froissart and Monstrelet would themselves supply matter as new as it would be interesting, to the great majority of readers. On the whole the stories are fairly told. — *The Heroes of the Crusades*, by BARBARA HUTTON; with illustrations (Griffith and Farran), form the subjects of an interesting series of sketches which the authoress has done with considerable judgment and care, and which would enable the young reader to get a very accurate idea of the Crusaders. These tales of chivalry are always sure to exercise a considerable hold on youthful imaginations.

The White Foreigners from over the Water. The Story of the American Mission to the Burmese and the Karens. (Religious Tract Society.) This story of the Christian labours among a benighted and degraded people, is one of the most interesting chapters in the history of modern missionary enterprise. Told, as it is here, with simplicity, and yet with considerable effectiveness, it can hardly fail to engage the attention, and elicit the sympathy of the young.

The Buried Cities of Campania; or Pompeii and Herculaneum, &c. By W. H. DAVENPORT ADAMS. (Nelson and Sons.) This is a book full of useful information, told in a pleasing style. — *Sandford and Merton*, by T. DAY, with illustrations (James Hogg and Son), is too old and well known a favourite to need a single word of praise from us. We have only to introduce this new and compact edition to our youthful readers.

Messrs. Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday, send us two good children's stories—*Dame Wynton's Home*, a Tale illustrative of the Lord's Prayer, by Mrs. CAREY BROCK, with eight illustrations; and *Christian Hatherley's Childhood*, a Tale, by C. E. B., with four illustrations, both of which inculcate important lessons of Christian principle and duty. — *The Golden Missionary Penny*, and other Addresses to the Young. By the late Rev. J. J. BOLTON. (T. Nelson and Sons.) Contains useful addresses of full, average excellence, and on the whole well adapted to the class for whom they are specially designed.

SERIALS.

Messrs. Seeley and Co. (Fleet-street) have published the third volume of the *Infant's Magazine* in a coloured binding. It abounds in numerous wood engravings, and instruction suited to children of tender years. The *Friendly Visitor*, from the same publishers, is adapted for the cottage and the kitchen. — The yearly part of the *British Workman* (9, Paternoster-row), has a striking coloured frontispiece of "An African Prince," by Anelay, and full-page engravings of a very high order. The portrait of the late Lord Brougham is a wonderful and highly-finished likeness, and similar praise may be accorded to other illustrations. The whole design of this serial is admirable, and carried out in first-rate style. Its stories are varied, fresh, and interesting, and all adapted to elevate the class to which they are addressed. The *British Workman* has a wide circulation, and we trust it will continue to prosper, supplant the trashy cheap literature that is still current among the masses,

and wage successful warfare against degrading indulgences and vicious habits. It is a valuable ally to the city missionary and social reformers, and will penetrate to quarters where they are excluded. — The third series of the *Children's Hour Annual* (Johnstone, Hunter and Co., Edinburgh) is a miscellany of original tales, descriptions, and poetry, interspersed with woodcuts, having a wholesome tendency, bound up together in a goodly volume, handsomely bound. Among the stories is "Jessie Oglethorpe, or a Daughter's Devotion," by the skilled hand of Mr. W. Davenport Adams. — The yearly volume (the ninth) of the *Mother's Friend* (Hodder and Stoughton, Paternoster-row), calls for a word of commendation. With the new year the magazine is to appear in a new dress and form, with a view to increase its attractiveness. — *Old Merry's Annual* (Hodder and Stoughton), the volume of *Merry and Wise* for 1868, contains in addition to stories a very popular feature in "Our puzzle department." — *The Band of Hope Review* (Partridge), *The Cottager* (Religious Tract Society), and *Chatterbox* (Macintosh), like the "British Workman" are valuable not only for their letter-press, but for the admirable wood-cuts which accompany it. We have found these, and others such as *The Infant's Magazine* and the *Children's Prize*, the most welcome books to the very little ones the year through. — *The Children's Friend* (Seeley and Co.), holds its place as one of the first favourites among the juveniles, and well deserves the reputation it has made.

THE A B C DESPATCH BOX.—Methodical people will be glad to have, and unmethodical people ought to have, this very convenient receptacle for business papers and letters. To ourselves, it proves a most simple and satisfactory arrangement for the disposal of papers that are temporarily troublesome, and must not be consigned to a final rest. It consists of a series of slides or divisions, corresponding to the letters of the alphabet, each division, of course, intended to contain letters or papers which it is desirable to arrange alphabetically. It is sold and patented by Messrs. Jenner and Knewstubb.

Miscellaneous News.

PROPOSED NEW UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.—The inhabitants of Oxford-street have been asked to pass judgment on a scheme for carrying an underground railway from the Marble Arch, along Oxford-street and Holborn, to the General Post-office, but they object to give it their support. According to Mr. Hawkshaw, there would be nine stations on the line, about a third of a mile apart. The railway would be worked by stationary engines, and thus, by dispensing with the locomotive, the vibration would be reduced to a minimum. It is not proposed to interfere with the traffic of Oxford-street during the period of the excavations.

THE UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE.—The annual *soirée* of the London Auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance was held in the Arundel Hall on Monday night. Sir G. B. Peckell, Bart., presided. A report was read, stating that there was good reason for congratulating the members on what had been done in London to further the objects which the Alliance at large desired to accomplish. The late general election had gained for the Alliance a good many friends, upon whom it was thought the Alliance might well depend, and through whose exertions in the House of Commons, with regard to the desired reform in the licensing system of the United Kingdom, it was hoped there would soon be witnessed congratulatory results. Resolutions in furtherance of the objects of the Alliance were passed.

THE CLAIMS OF WOMEN.—On Thursday Miss Emily Faithfull addressed an audience at the Hanover-square Rooms on this subject. The lady claimed for her sex a fairer chance than they now possessed of earning a livelihood; proper legal rights; greater educational advantages; and the suffrage. It was not her wish that women should perform men's work, but that they should be encouraged to do that for which they were physically and mentally capable. At present they had not that fair opportunity which was their undoubted right. Out of the six millions of women in this country, two and a half millions were unmarried; and it was absolutely essential to the well-being of society that, where the disproportion between the sexes was so large, the weakest should have the widest possible field to obtain the means of supporting themselves.

CAUSES OF CRIME.—A very interesting discussion took place on Thursday evening, at the rooms of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, 150, Strand, on the "Causes of and Remedies for Crime." The chair was taken by Mr. Ernest Noel; and amongst those present were the Hon. Roden Noel, the Revs. H. Solly, E. G. L'Estrange, Messrs. James Hole, Thomas Paterson, J. Weston, Edward Hall, F.S.A., C. Dunlop, J. J. Bryen, R. D. Walker, and G. Ganton. The subject was opened by Mr. Hodgson Pratt, who attributed the main cause of crime to the neglect of the numerous juvenile population connected with the criminal class of the country. Speeches were afterwards made by several of the above-mentioned gentlemen, and so great interest was excited in the subject that it was resolved to adjourn the discussion until the evening of the first Thursday in January.

SUBMARINE EARTHQUAKE IN THE ATLANTIC.—Intelligence has reached Liverpool of the arrival at St. Helen of the barque *Euphrosyne*. Captain Christie reports that at midnight on the 8th and 9th of November, in lat about 16.40 S., long 4 W., the sky

suddenly became overcast with dense black-looking clouds, and in all directions was heard a noise like distant cannonading, while the sea was very confused. The compass vibrated very much, and almost lost its polarity. Several large meteors shot out from the heavens, and the fish jumped out of the sea, and struck against the sides of the ship, which trembled so that the rumbling could be distinctly felt as well as heard. The volcanic action of the sea continued during the night until sunrise, when the weather became clear and settled. There was a slight breeze all the time of the rumbling from S.S.E., but there was no perceptible variation in either barometer. Captain Christie is of opinion that the vessel at the time of the noise was passing over some fearful submarine convulsion.

AN UNPROMISING LOOK-OUT FOR PARLIAMENTARY REPORTERS.—With what dreadful apprehension all gallery reporters must have read that Mr. Lowe was to be Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the memory of the oldest of them there never has been that right hon. gentleman's equal for taxing the powers of the stenographer. He talks in steam-jerks, which follow in such astoundingly rapid succession that one sentence appears to run into another, and to be itself dashed into by its successor before it has reached its resting-place. A quotation of ten or eleven lines from a Latin author, or perhaps from our own Tennyson, is made to travel at the same speed. It is spoken by heart, and is brought on to do duty, and then to disappear again, without the slightest preliminary or concluding pause on the part of the orator. Mr. Lowe never makes a full stop. If an honourable member interposes with a commentary, Mr. Lowe tosses it aside as a locomotive at sixty miles an hour does any small thing that may have been foolish enough to get on its path. But this does not interrupt his speed in the least. He keeps on at full steam. Then he is not a man from whose speech words may be dropped with impunity. His style is so terse, and almost every phrase he uses is so singularly appropriate to his meaning and to the tone in which he wishes to convey what he means, that to change his phraseology would almost invariably be to change his argument as well as his phraseology. I should say that a budget speech of Mr. Lowe's would be the most crucial test to which a candidate for a gallery appointment could be subjected, supposing the reporter not to be supplied with all the figures. — *Correspondent of the Liverpool Albion*.

THE LATE BARON BUNSEN'S THEOLOGICAL VIEWS.—A controversy of painful interest has arisen out of the article on Bunsen in the last number of the *British Quarterly Review*. The reviewer notices as "the saddest and most unaccountable of all Bunsen's theological errors" his "utter denial of the resurrection of our Lord." He alleges that, "according to Bunsen's account, Jesus was taken down from the cross in a swoon and was carried away by the disciples into privacy, and then revived. After a time He went secretly into Phœnicia, and there died a natural death." This allegation has been received with incredulous surprise on the part of many who have merely read Bunsen's Memoirs, as they find it even more difficult than the reviewer, who regards it as "a profound, disastrous, and anomalous mystery," "to reconcile it with his great and beautiful life"; and some even of those who have a large acquaintance with Bunsen's works have denied not only that he could, but that he did, hold any such opinion. Mr. Frederick Seebohm addressed a letter to the *Spectator* of Nov. 21, quoted passages from the *Bibel Werk* to show that Bunsen "directly asserts what the reviewer in the *British Quarterly* makes him utterly deny," namely, that Christ's death was real, and His resurrection an indubitable fact." He adds that "it is surely unfair to insinuate that Bunsen denied the fact of the ascension simply because he could not accept the theory that the corporeal elements of Christ's body ascended to heaven." Next week the reviewer rejoined that "a more thorough and careful examination of the *Bibel Werk*, to which Mr. Seebohm refers, would have satisfied him that what he calls mis-statements are simply true, and are founded on reliable evidence. He seems to forget that the reappearance of Jesus alive after the crucifixion is very far from being the same thing as a resurrection from the dead. To put the whole case in the briefest possible form, Bunsen conveys, in words whose meaning seems beyond all dispute, that he did not believe in the real death on the cross: and if this be so, and it is so, then he neither did nor could believe in a real resurrection from the dead." The reviewer quotes several passages from the *Bibel Werk* in support of his view. He admits that Bunsen continued to use the old, sacred words, "He died, He rose from the dead," "He was dead, He lives again, and is alive for evermore," though to him they did not retain their common, proper meaning, as understood by men in general. "I thoroughly believe," adds the reviewer, "that this was done in integrity and honesty, and I can, in some sort, conceive how this might be possible to him. But the inconsistency is none the less palpable and flagrant. I think it worthy of condemnation, and likely to be most injurious."

Gleanings.

The funds of the Roebuck testimonial now amount to £2,500.

The colliers in the Ruabon district, amounting to some thousands, have struck for an advance.

Sir H. Bulwer, M.P., is about to write the life of Lord Palmerston.

The proposed working men's banquet to the United States Minister has been finally abandoned.

The Earl of Onslow, who is in his ninety-second year, took the oath in the House of Peers on Friday, and appeared in excellent health and spirits.

The Times appeals to the Speaker to abolish or relax the rule requiring his guests either to appear in Court dress or in uniform.

The boiler of a steam wherry employed on the Tyne exploded yesterday near Gateshead, and six men were killed, three being frightfully mutilated.

Of the three new lines contemplated to Brighton, two have been abandoned; the one remaining is the "Direct London and Brighton."

Mr. Plant, of Birmingham, says that the great heat of this month culminated on Friday in the attainment of 58 deg. in the shade, the highest temperature ever registered there in December.

The Northern Ensign says that gold has been found in the county of Sutherland. The discovery has not yet so affected the public mind as to lead to a "rush to the diggings," but it has raised sufficient interest to justify such an amount of "prospecting" as will put an end very soon to all doubt on the subject.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE WELSHMAN.—The Liverpool Courier tells the following story of a Welshman's visit to Mr. Gladstone:—"The Welshman says that, having read so much of the great statesman, he became very desirous to see—only to see—the great man. One day last summer he set out early for Mr. Gladstone's house in Penmaenmawr. It was with many misgivings that, carrying carefully a small basket with him, he walked up to the house: for, having but an exceedingly small stock of English at his command, he feared it would avail him but little with the servants. In that fear he was right, for on asking to see Mr. Gladstone, he was informed by the maid-servant first, and by the butler afterwards, that their master was then very busy, and could not be seen before night. Nothing daunted, the sturdy Welshman expressed his readiness to call again at night. Just then another maid-servant, a countrywoman of his, came to his rescue, and led him to Mrs. Gladstone. The kind lady was much amused to see the Welshman's determination to see—only to see, he said—Mr. Gladstone. The object of his admiration was told of this singular visitor, and coming to him laughed heartily to hear the enthusiastic Welshman say that he only wished to see Mr. Gladstone, of whom and of his great services he had read so much; and, thereupon, he begged Mr. Gladstone to accept the small basket of eggs he had brought with him, and which were placed together in a very artistic style. Mr. Gladstone took them kindly from the simple man, presented him with a book in return, asking him to take some lunch, and making kind inquiries after the Welshman's family. It was with great reluctance that the visitor partook of food, for he frequently assured them that he came there not to eat anything, but to see Mr. Gladstone. However this warm-hearted son of Wales left highly pleased with his successful visit, and bearing with him the book he received, and a portrait of the great Liberal chief, which Mrs. Gladstone gave him, with kind assurances that he would be always welcomed there."

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Inflammation Controlled.—All persons should be forewarned by the present sudden atmospheric changes that their maintenance of health depends upon rectifying disorder in, and expelling impurities from, the system without unnecessary delay. Cases of internal inflammation in the throat, lungs, liver, and bowels are perpetually happening during the winter, and loudly call for a certain curative such as Holloway's Pills. They supersede blood-letting, antimony, and similarly dangerous treatment. No invalid will be at a loss to treat his complaint on the surest and safest principles who carefully reads through the printed directions folded round every box of these Pills. No danger can result from using this medicine, which may be accounted "The antidote for inflammation."

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

WILSON.—December 12, the wife of the Rev. Alexander Wilson, B.A., of Stockport, Cheshire, of a daughter.

EASTY.—December 13, at Oakfield, Sutton, Surrey, the wife of J. Henry Easty, Esq., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

SCOTT-WRIGHT.—September 9, at the Congregational church, Brisbane, Queensland, by the Rev. E. Griffith, Robert Townley Scott, Esq., of H.M. Post-office, Brisbane, to Ellen, only daughter of George Parkinson Wright, Esq., of Billin-noba, Albert-river, Queensland, and late of Fulham, Middlesex, England.

RILEY-LINDLEY.—December 5, at the Baptist chapel, Wakefield, by the Rev. W. Colcroft, Mr. Onesimus Riley, Thomas-lane, Wakefield, to Harriet, youngest daughter of Mr. Robert Lindley, Wakefield.

SCOTT-HARDWICK.—December 6, at the United Methodist Free Church, Wakefield, by the Rev. W. Beckett, Mr. Samuel Scott, to Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr. John Hardwick, Elm-street, Wakefield.

CROSBY-CRAVEN.—December 6, at the Independent chapel, Sale, Joseph, youngest son of Mr. John Crosby, of Ashley, to Mary Ann, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Craven, of Manchester.

EATON-ROLLSTON.—December 7, by licence, at the Independent chapel, Yelvertoft, by the Rev. B. W. Evans, Mr. John Eaton, of Leicester, to Miss Frances Rollston, of Clay Coton Lodge, Northamptonshire.

GODDARD-HALSALL.—December 10, at the Crescent Chapel, Liverpool, by the Rev. John Kelly, Mr. Edward Goddard, to Catherine, second daughter of the late Mr. John M. Halsall, of Liverpool.

WILKERSON-OLAYDON.—December 10, at the Independent chapel, Linton, Cambs., Mr. Edward Shippey Wilker-son, of Whiten's Mere Farm, Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire, to Auey Barnard, youngest daughter of the late Charles Thomas Olaydon, Esq., of Hadstock, Essex, and formerly of Bawburgh, Norfolk.

BRUNETT-HOLROYD.—December 10, at the Independent school, Hollingworth, by the Rev. E. Daniels, William Ben- nect, of Hollingworth, to Henrietta, eldest daughter of Timothy Holroyd, of Broom Croft, Hadfield.

HYDE-THOMAS.—December 11, at Cavendish-street Chapel, Manchester, by the Rev. J. T. Woodhouse, of Stockport, William Henry, son of the late James Hyde, Esq., to Eliza, only daughter of Mr. James Thomas, all of Manchester.

ASHLEY-LEIGH.—December 12, at St. George's, Hanover-square, by the Lord Bishop of Llandaff, the Hon. Lionel Ashley, third son of the Earl of Shaftesbury, to Frances Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late Capel Hanbury Leigh, Esq., of Pontypool Park, Monmouthshire.

DEATHS.

ALDERSEY.—September 29, at her residence, Teong Gylson, MacLaren Vale, South Australia, to which colony she had retired after employing her life and property in missionary work in China, Mary Anne, daughter of the late Joseph Aldersey, Esq., of Homerton, Middlesex, in the seventy-second year of her age.

BUNTING.—November 13, at Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Mary Jane, wife of the Rev. Henry Bunting, Wesleyan missionary, and daughter of the Rev. D. J. East, President of Calabar Institution, aged twenty-one years.

NISBET.—November 15, at Oakville, Ontario, Canada, the beloved wife of the Rev. Henry Nisbet, missionary, Samoa, South Sea Islands.

CULLEN.—December 2, at 23, Royal-terrace, Edinburgh, Jane Carrstairs, wife of the Rev. G. D. Cullen, in her sixty-sixth year.

CARTER.—December 7, Ann, the beloved wife of John Carter, of 58, Kingsland-road and Amburn-road, Hackney, in her fifty-fourth year.

ADKINS.—December 9, at Prospect-place, Southampton, the Rev. Thomas Adkins, in the eighty-second year of his age.

ELRICK.—December 10, suddenly, of disease of the heart, in the fifty-third year of his age, the Rev. J. Elrick, M.A., pastor of the Independent chapel, Dundas-street, Monk-wearmouth.

COLLINGWOOD.—December 10, drowned in the wreck of the Gossamer, while accompanying his friend the captain as far as Plymouth in his outward bound voyage for Adelaide, Henry Frederick Collingwood, aged thirty, youngest son of Henry Collingwood, 48, Conduit-street, Hanover-square.

HASSAN.—December 10, at Stamford, Hugh Hassan, father of the Rev. Edward Hassan, Wavertree.

BLOMFIELD.—December 12, at Buntingford, Herts, Ann, the beloved wife of Mr. Robert Blomfield, aged sixty-five years. Trusting in her Saviour.

PAGET.—December 12, at her residence, Humberstone, Leicestershire, in her eighty-fourth year, Anne, relict of Thomas Paget, Esq., formerly M.P. for that county, and sister of the late Thomas Pares, Esq., formerly M.P. for Leicester.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Dec. 14.

There was a very small supply of English wheat to this morning's market, which was taken at an advance of 1s. to 2s. per qr. on the rates of this day seavight. Foreign sold in retail at an improvement of 1s. per qr. Fine barley brought 1s. per qr. more money, and secondary descriptions were firm. Beans and peas each rather worse to sell. The arrivals of oats from foreign ports for the week are good. New qualities were in rather better demand, and in some instances brought a slight advance in price. Old remain without alteration in value or demand.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Barley and Kent,	s. d.	s. d.
red, old	— to —	— to —
ditto new	50 52	46 48
White, old	—	41 46
new	55 58	44 46
Foreign red	49 50	44 45
white	55 57	40 43
Rye	—	—
OATS—	—	—
English malting ..	38 38	37 33
Oberwall	46 51	31 35
Distilling	42 45	—
Foreign	38 39	—
MALT—	—	—
Pale	—	23 26
Oberwall	—	23 26
Brown	52 62	25 27
BEANS—	—	—
Ticks	42 44	—
Harrow	45 47	—
Small	—	—
Egyptian	41 43	—
PEAS—	—	—
Grey	42 to 44	—
Maple	46 48	—
White	41 46	—
Boilers	44 46	—
Foreign, boilers ..	44 45	—
RYE	—	—
OATS—	—	—
English feed	37 33	—
potatoes	31 35	—
Scotch feed	—	—
potatoes	—	—
Irish black	23 26	—
white	23 26	—
Foreign feed	25 27	—
FLOUR—	—	—
Town made	42 47	—
Country Marks ..	37 38	—
Norfolk & Suffolk	32 33	—

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 5.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 7d. to 8½d.; household ditto, 5½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE-MARKET, Dec. 14.

The supply of beasts fresh up for to-day's trade—the great market day of the year—is unprecedentedly short, being from 2,000 to 3,000 less than the two previous years. The show of Aberdeen-fed beasts on Messrs. Dickson's, Henry Hicks's, Giblett's, and William Martin's stands is extremely good. The principal senders, Messrs. Knowles and Withart, of Aberdeen; Longmore, of Banffshire; M'Donald, of Peterhead; Bruce, of Midloth; A. Corrie, of Turf; J. W. Martin, of Aberdeen; Mr. M'Combie, of Tillyfour; St-wart, of Aberdeen, &c. On William Martin's stand a very fine show of Aberdeens by Mr. Walbank, from Edinburgh and Forres Show, as well as a superior lot of Irish fed by Mr. John Gerrard, County Meath; on Barrell's stand a fine lot of Galloway Scots, fed by Tongay, of Ellinghamhall, Norfolk; a superior stand of Lincolns on Messrs. Vorley's. West country beasts are short, but superior in quality. Trade opened brisk, competition among buyers keen, and high rates were demanded and given. Although we quote 6s. as the top, the general run may be called rather under, only very choice neat animals fetching that quotation. Altogether, up to the present hour, noon, the general tone of the market is brisk and lively, and a clearance will be made. The mutton trade is also active, at an advance of 2d. to 4d. per stone over last week, and all will be sold. Choice calves scarce and dear. Pork steady.

	Total Supply.	Foreign Supply.
Beasts	6,320	810
Sheep and Lambs ..	1,8210	—
Calves	103	88
Pigs	330	10
Inferior quality.	First Quality.	
Beef 3s. 6d. to 4s. 4d.	4s. 8d. to 6s. 0d.	
Mutton 3s. 6d. to 4s. 0d.	4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.	
Veal 3s. 6d. to 4s. 8d.	5s. 0d. to 6s. 0d.	
Pork 3s. 4d. to 3s. 10d.	4s. 2d. to 4s. 10d.	

At per stone of 14lb., sinking the offal.

From	Arrivals.	1,025 Beasts
From Scotland	520 "
" Ireland	350 "
" Norfolk and Suffolk	2,405 "
" Midland and Home Counties	210 "
" Western Counties	—

STATE OF THE TRADE.

The demand for English beasts ruled fairly active, and the number on sale being comparatively small, prices advanced fully 2d. per stone, the quotation being 5s. 8d. In some few instances, however, this price was exceeded. The arrivals of beasts from Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire were 2,000 shorthorns, &c.; from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, &c.; from 1,800 Scots and Crosses; from other parts of England; 650 of various breeds; from Scotland 1,048 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, 680 oxen, cows, &c. Really prime Down and half-bred sheep were in active request at an improvement of 2d. to 4d. per stone, the top figure being 6s. 6d. per stone. Calves changed hands steadily at late rates. The supply was

small. No change took place in the value of pigs. The trade on the whole ruled quiet.

Per Stone, to sink the offal.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts ..	3 4 to 3 8	Prime Southdown ..	5 9 to 5 6		
Second quality ..	3 10 4 6	Lambs	0 0 0 0		
Prime large oxen ..	4 8 5 4	Leg. coarse calves ..	3 8 4 8		
Prime Scots, &c. ..	5 6 5 8	Prime small	4 10 5 10		
Coarse inf. sheep ..	3 2 3 3	Large hogs	3 6 3 10		
Second quality ..	3 10 4 6	Westm. porkers ..	3 10 4 8		
Pr. coarse woolled ..	4 8 5 0				

Stuckling calves, 22s. to 25s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 25s. each.

SMITHFIELD AND LEADENHALL, Monday, Dec. 14.

There have been full average supplies of both town and country-killed meat on sale, of generally good quality. On the whole, the trade has ruled steady, at the prices annexed. The imports into London last week comprised 193 packages from Harlingen, 556 from Hamburg, and 5 from Rotterdam.

Per Stone, by the carcass.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef	3 0 to 3 4	Inf. mutton	3 2 3 6		
Middling ditto ..	3 6 3 10	Middling ditto ..	3 8 4 2		
Prime large do. ..	4 0 4 4	Prime ditto	4 4 4 8		
Do. small do. ..	4 6 4 8	Veal	3 8 4 10		
Large pork	3 2 3 10	Small pork	4 0 4 8		

PROVISIONS, Monday, Dec. 14.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 732 Arkins butter, and 3,326 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 30,037 casks, &c., butter, and 760 bales bacon. The unusual mildness of the weather caused the market to rule very quiet; some descriptions of foreign were 2s. to 4s. lower, best Dutch 1½s. to 1½s. The bacon market ruled slow, and but a moderate business transacted during the week; at the close holders were firmer.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, Dec. 14.—These markets are again heavily supplied with potatoes. The demand has been inactive for all descriptions, at about late rates. The import into London last week consisted of 1,898 bags 185 tons Antwerp, 670 bags Boulogne, 2,312 sacks Dunkirk, 1,438 bags Rotterdam, 6 packages Hamburg, 180 bags Bremen, 180 barrels Harlingen, and 3 bags from Oporto. English Regents 60s. to 120s., Scotch Regents 60s. to 120s., French 40s. to 80s. per ton.

JOVENT GARDEN MARKET, London, Saturday, Dec. 12.—English pines are now supplied much beyond the demand, and fresh arrivals are reported from abroad. There are also some good specimens of grapes from the Azores. The market shows generally a dull trade, and will be so until the Christmas week. Oranges very abundant. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, asters, pelargoniums, fuchsias, mignonettes, and roses.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Dec. 14.—Our market exhibits an improved demand for almost every class of hops, making prices a shade better, and causing holders to be very firm in their quotations. Fine colour samples are much sought after on account of their scarcity. Continental reports are more encouraging, both Belgian and Bavarian have advanced from 2s. to 4s. per cwt. with a tendency to further improvement. New York advices to the 28th ult., report a dull market, the pressure of hops to sale had the effect of depressing values. Mid and East Kent, 2½s. to 3s., to 3s. 6s.; Wexford of Kent, 2½s. to 3s. 6s., to 4s. 10s.; Sussex, 2½s. to 3s. 6s.; Farnham, 4½s. to 6s.; Country, 4½s. to 6s. 10s.; to 5s. 5s.; Bavarians, 3½s. to 4s. 10s., to 4s. 10s.; Belgians, 2½s. to 3s. 10s.; to 3s. 10s.; Yearlings, 3½s. to 4s. 10s., to 4s. 10s. The imports of foreign hops into London last week consisted of 233 bales from Antwerp, 301 Boulogne, 46 Bremen, 15 Calais, 80 Dunkirk, 417 Hamburg, 180 Ostend, 293 Rotterdam, and 301 bales from New York.

SEED, Monday, Dec. 14.—There was not much in English red cloverseed offering; but fine qualities command high prices. Choice German was in request as more money. Foreign not fine enough for the early demand. In mustards there was no quotable change. Foreign spring tares brought very full prices, with an improving demand. Maise was easier bought, although there were no imports. Grass seeds are as yet little inquired after.

WOOL, Monday, Dec. 14.—We have no feature of importance to notice in the English wool market. The demand is principally confined to good combing qualities, which command extreme rates, and prices generally rule firm. With the opening of the year, and the close of the public sales of colonial produce, an extended business is anticipated.

OIL, Monday, Dec. 14.—For linseed the market has ruled heavy; but for rape oil the market has been fair. Olive and coconut oils have been neglected; palm has been in limited request. Turpentine and petroleum have ruled firm.

Advertisements.

THE Attention of CHRISTIANS is called to the WEEK OF UNIVERSAL PRAYER, JANUARY 4-6, 1869. Papers with subjects may be had on application to the Secretaries of the Evangelical Alliance, 7, Adam-street, Strand, London, W.C.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

ORDINARY RETURN TICKETS issued on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 23, and intervening days, will be available for Returning up to and including Dec. 31, 1868.

These Tickets will only be issued to and from those Stations where Return Tickets are usually issued.

The Trains will run on Christmas-day as appointed for Sunday.

JAMES ALLPORT, General Manager.

Derby, December, 1868.

TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—WANTED, a gentlemanly and well-educated YOUTH as an APPRENTICE in a first class DISPENSING ESTABLISHMENT, where more than ordinary facilities would be given to prepare for the Examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society and acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business in all its branches. Address, John Morgan Davis, The Pharmacy, Penge-park, E.

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